

MISSION

NPS Park Planning guides informed and insightful decisions that provide relevant and timely direction to park management, and informs future decision-making for each National Park System unit in accord with its stated mission.

Greetings,

On the following pages you will find descriptions of products and services that reflect the range of park planning work undertaken throughout the National Park Service. Many of the entries reflect park planning needs that have been identified by park and regional employees during the park foundation process, specifically in the assessment of planning needs. This expanded edition of the catalog was developed to support these assessments and to assist park staff in preparing proposals for planning work. It is anticipated that the catalog will be updated quarterly.

The description of each product or service includes its purpose, description, cost estimate, time frame, examples, potential funding sources, and key contacts. The catalog can be used as a resource for the assessment of planning needs workshop during the foundation process, or as a starting point as individual project descriptions are prepared, for example when staff formulate a Project Management Information System (PMIS) statement. The scope of the project, its schedule, and budget will be decided, ultimately, by the staff members who develop the project, as well as those who fund the product or service. Therefore, the cost estimates and time frames provided for many of the products and services are approximate.

A number of the products and services in the catalog are eligible for funding under the Park Planning and Special Studies Division's Unit Management Plan fund source. Many more are funded under a variety of NPS programs. Often, funding is leveraged among multiple NPS programs and through friends groups, park fees, and occasionally other agencies.

The Denver Service Center Planning Division, in partnership with the larger community of planners within the National Park Service, provided well over 50 different products and services for 300-plus projects delivered to parks, regions, various programs, and other agencies between 2012 and 2014. For more information about the products and services listed in this catalog, or any that should be listed, please contact one of us at the phone numbers provided below. An electronic copy of this catalog is available on the Foundation SharePoint site at <http://Share.nps.gov/foundations>.

Thank you for your partnership in the production of excellent park planning products and services.

Sincerely,

Barbara J Johnson
Division Manager for Planning
Denver Service Center
303-969-2008

Patrick Gregerson
Chief
Park Planning & Special Studies
202-354-6972

September 2014



Table of Contents

Accessibility Conceptual Site Plan.....	1
Accessibility Self-evaluation and Transition Plan.....	2
Architectural, Engineering, and Landscape Documentation	3
Boundary Adjustment Study.....	5
Climate Change Scenario Planning.....	7
Climate Friendly Parks – Climate Action Plan	8
Commercial Services Plan.....	10
Commercial Services Strategy.....	12
Community/Partner Assessment.....	14
Cultural Landscape Inventory	16
Cultural Landscape Report	17
Cultural Resource Management Plan.....	18
Design Charrette.....	19
Guidelines and Principles.....	20
Design Concept Graphics and Illustrations.....	21
Editing Services.....	22
Fire Management Plan	23
Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Technical Assistance	24
Fisheries Management Plan / Aquatic Resources Management Plan	25
Foundation Document	26
General Management Plan.....	28
GIS Analysis	29
GIS Park Atlas	31
Real-time GIS Service	32
Historic Structure Report	33
Historic Structure Reuse Plan	34
Hunting Management Plan	35
Integrated Park Improvements	36
Integrated Pest Management Plan.....	37
Invasive Species Plan – Aquatic Resources	39
Land Protection Plan	40
Library Services	41
Long-Range Interpretive Plan	42
Museum Feasibility Report	43
National Heritage Area Feasibility Study	44
National Heritage Area Management Plans	45





Off-road Vehicle Management Plan.....	46
Operations and Investments Financial Sustainability Plan	47
Park Asset Management Plan.....	49
Park Partner Action Strategy	50
Park Planning and Resource Training	51
PEPC Comment Analysis	52
Public Comment Web Mapping for NEPA Analysis/Planning	53
Publications	54
Regional Land Use Plan	55
Resource Stewardship Strategy.....	56
Site Plan.....	57
Special Resource Study.....	59
Strategic Plan.....	60
Trail Management Plan	61
Ungulate Management Plan.....	62
Viewshed Management Plan.....	63
Visitor Experience And Transportation Assessment	64
Visitor Use Management Plan	65
Visitor Use Monitoring Protocol.....	67
Visitor Use Studies And Surveys.....	68
Wetland Impact Analysis and DO 77-1: Wetland Protection Compliance Assistance Service	69
Wetland Management Strategy Report	70
Wetland Restoration Services	71
Wild and Scenic Rivers Comprehensive River Management Plan	72
Wild and Scenic River Values Statement	73
Wilderness Eligibility Assessment.....	74
Wilderness Stewardship Plan.....	76
Wilderness Study	77

Accessibility Conceptual Site Plan

Objective

The purpose of this effort is to assess the current level of accessibility and identify opportunities for improvement in the programs and services offered by a park, as well as the park facilities and amenities. The findings and recommendations of the plan are intended to guide the park in planning for future projects and incorporating universal design and accessibility into planned work.

Description of the Product or Service

These plans ensure that all visitors, regardless of their abilities, are able to experience and enjoy the park. The steps in this process include

- assessing the programs, services, and activities of the park or a particular area of the park
- identifying opportunities for improvement in the programs, services, and activities provided
- providing recommendations to guide the park staff in removing barriers to accessibility

This product would provide two site plans, one with all existing conditions and one showing the recommendations for accessibility improvements at a particular site.

Cost Estimate – \$75,000–\$150,000

Time Frame – 10–18 months

Example(s) – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – Typically this is park-funded or part of a master plan/site plan.

Key Contacts – Barbara J. Johnson, Planning Division, DSC, Barbara_j_johnson@nps.gov; Cynthia Nelson, Branch Chief, Planning Division, DSC, Cynthia_nelson@nps.gov



Accessibility Self-evaluation and Transition Plan

Objective

To provide support to parks, regions, and programs through the development of plans that address universal accessibility, both physical and programmatic. This planning product will aid parks with accessibility of park programs.

Description of the Product or Service

NPS Director's Order 42: *Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in National Park Service Programs and Services* commits park units to identifying barriers that limit access to park programs, facilities, and services; and to developing transition plans and identifying how these barriers will be removed (where feasible) and when. Parks, other NPS offices, and the public would collaboratively prepare accessibility Self-evaluation and Transition Plans. The Self-evaluation part of the plan consists of the evaluation and assessment of physical barriers to accessibility, both structural and programmatic. The outcome of this holistic and program-based planning process is an accessible and spatially referenced document that will guide park staff and decision makers in assessing, prioritizing (with consistent criteria based on WASO policy), and implementing solutions for universal accessibility. Coordination and partnering with the following entities is undertaken as required or needed: the National Center on Accessibility, park staff and park leads for applicable program areas (e.g., interpretation), park accessibility coordinators, regional accessibility coordinators, and individuals with disabilities.

Cost Estimate – \$50,000–\$100,000

Time Frame – 9–12 months

Example(s) – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – Typically this is park-funded or part of a master plan/site plan. Other sources to be identified

Key Contacts

Barbara J. Johnson, Planning Division, DSC, Barbara_j_johnson@nps.gov

Cynthia Nelson, Branch Chief, Planning Division, DSC, Cynthia_nelson@nps.gov



Architectural, Engineering, and Landscape Documentation

Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)

Historic American Engineering Record (HAER)

Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS)

Objective

Thorough, comprehensive documentation of park resources provides park cultural resource managers with baseline data—measured drawings, large-format photographs, and written historical reports—to assist in planning efforts for rehabilitation and restoration, and the interpretation of buildings, structures, and landscapes. In addition, data gathered in the documentation process through high-definition laser scanning and digital photogrammetry can be used to create digital interpretive and graphic presentations.

Description of Product or Service

Documentation of historic sites, structures, and landscapes adhering to *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Architectural, Engineering, and Landscape Documentation* should be completed whenever alteration or demolition are considered, but can be done preemptively for planning and resource stewardship purposes, the creation of new interpretive materials, etc.

Measured drawings are rendered in CAD files that are available for maintenance, rehabilitation, and restoration purposes.

Large-format photographs provide detailed as-is information. Large format captures the equivalent of approximately 50 megapixels of data, providing exceptional details and crisp images.

Historical reports detail the initial construction/development of the site/structure and changes made to it over time, as well as significant contextual information.



Architectural, Engineering, and Landscape Documentation (continued)



Scanning byproducts: Not part of the official documentation created to meet the Secretary’s standards, point cloud and other digital data are readily adaptable to electronic media presentations such as fly-throughs, pano-tours, etc. Among the many products for which professional documentation is particularly useful are:

Architectural Survey Report	National Heritage Area Management Plan
Cultural Landscape Inventory/Report	Regional Land Use Planning
Cultural Resource Management Plan	Resource Stewardship Strategy
General Management Plan	Site Management Plan
Historic Structure Report	Special Resource Studies
Integrated Park Improvements	Visual Resource Inventory / Management Plan

Cost Estimates

Documentation can be tailored to specific resources and for specific purposes. Prices may range from \$2,000 for a selection of large-format photographs to \$75,000 for a comprehensive set of drawings, large-format photographs, and a historical report. Resource size and complexity greatly influence project budget.

Time Frame – Approximately 12 months

Examples – Search the collections: <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/hh/>

Funding Source – The NPS Heritage Documentation Programs work closely with resource managers to accommodate need and cost.

Contact – Richard O’Connor, Chief, Heritage Documentation Programs,
richard_o’connor@nps.gov

Boundary Adjustment Study

Objective

Through a boundary adjustment study, the National Park Service identifies and evaluates boundary adjustments that may be necessary or desirable for carrying out the purposes of a national park system unit. The study investigates whether a proposed boundary expansion meets the eligibility criteria in section 3.5 of *NPS Management Policies 2006*. Boundaries on segments of the wild and scenic river system are also established and adjusted pursuant to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, to be addressed in a separate product.

Description of the Product or Service

The study precedes a NPS recommendation for a boundary revision. Boundary adjustments may be recommended for one of three purposes: to protect significant resources and values, or to enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to park purposes; address operational and management issues, such as the need for access or the need for boundaries to correspond to logical boundary delineations such as topographic or other natural features or roads; or otherwise protect park resources that are critical to fulfilling park purposes. A favorable proposal for boundary changes must meet two criteria:

1. The added lands must be feasible to administer, considering their size, configuration, ownership, costs, views of and impacts on local communities and surrounding jurisdictions, and other factors such as the presence of hazardous substances or nonnative species.
2. Other alternatives for management and resource protection are not adequate.

A boundary study may be undertaken as part of a general management planning process, or as a single-issue independent study. The boundary adjustment study has a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) component and is usually integrated with an environmental assessment if done as an independent project. The NPS recommendation, based on a positive finding in the study process, would generally be carried forward in legislative proposals from the region. The boundary revision would be specifically authorized by Congress.

(continued on next page)



Boundary Adjustment Study (continued)

Cost Estimate – \$25,000–\$100,000

Time frame – 1–2 years

Example – *Minute Man National Historical Park Boundary Study and Environmental Assessment* <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/documentsList.cfm?projectID=18160>

Potential Funding Sources – WASO Park Planning and Special Studies – Unit Management Plan fund source; Park-funded

Key Contacts – Patrick Gregerson, Park Planning and Special Studies, patrick_gregerson@nps.gov; Regional Planning Chiefs; DSC Planning



Climate Change Scenario Planning

Objective

To develop a range of plausible science-based scenarios of the future that informs development of climate change adaptation strategies that serve park planning needs, resources, and visitors in a rapidly changing environment.

Description of the Product or Service

Scenario planning is a dynamic process for decision making where there is high uncertainty and lack of control over key variables. Developing a range of plausible climate futures allows a park and stakeholders to proactively rehearse for multiple scenarios, strengthening the ability of park management to recognize, adapt to, and take advantage of changes over time. The planning process includes

- assembling an interdisciplinary core team
- defining the strategic climate change issue and the scale to address the issue
- developing plausible climate change scenarios and associated strategies
- defining monitoring strategies to further develop, validate, or potentially invalidate, the developed scenarios over time

There is often a public outreach and education component at the end of the process. Depending on the goals of park management, there could be a range of products, such as a narrative description of scenarios, supplementary information, public communication tools, and a final comprehensive document. Factors affecting the scope of the project, and therefore its cost and time frame, include the size of the park or region, the availability of technical and scientific information needed to develop the scenarios, the desired final products, the inclusion of a public involvement component, and travel and workshop facility expenses.

Cost Estimate – \$10,000–\$100,000

Time Frame – Less than 1 year

Example(s) – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – To be provided

Key Contacts – Don Weeks, NPS Climate Change Resource Planner, Water Resources Division, NRSS, don_weeks@nps.gov



Climate Friendly Parks – Climate Action Plan

Objective

To provide support, management tools, and resources to address sustainability and climate change aspects within park boundaries and in partnership with surrounding communities. Climate action plans are a primary tool supporting the goals in the NPS Green Parks Plan (<http://greenparksplaninside.nps.gov>).

Description of the Product or Service

The Climate Friendly Parks (CFP) Program provides a context in which parks have the ability to become more sustainable, teach visitors about climate change while using parks as classrooms, and communicate to park visitors the steps they can take in their own lives to make a difference.

The program follows a three-tiered approach, which focuses on the following goals:

1. Measure park-based greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
2. Educate park staff and the public about climate change and demonstrate ways individuals and groups can take action to address the issue.
3. Develop strategies and specific actions to address sustainability challenges, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and anticipate the impacts of climate change on park resources.

The program offers a range of services, including the development of a climate action plan. This is an outcome from a Climate Friendly Parks workshop that is designed around the specific needs of a park unit. The workshop incorporates the following:

- Park Specific Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory – a carbon management inventory tool designed specifically for national parks, called the Climate Leadership in Parks (CLIP) tool.
- Technical assistance developing park-specific action ideas to be placed in either a comprehensive EMS or an Action Plan, including tools to help develop action items such as the CLIP Module 2 (Action Planning Module).
- Assistance in identifying, implementing, and complying with Green Parks Plan goals.

Parks indicate their interest in being scheduled for a CFP workshop and Climate Action Plan by filling out a CFP application, available at <http://www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks/about.html>.



Climate Friendly Parks – Climate Action Plan (continued)

Cost Estimate – All CFP work is done by park, regional and WASO staff without any additional project costs. Costs to the park are limited to staff time and the cost of meeting space (if any).

Time Frame – Allow four months for planning and implementing a CFP workshop, which includes developing the GHG inventory using the CLIP tool. Workshop scheduling is dependent on WASO funding and other park requests.

Example(s) – A list of participating parks with climate action plans is available on the Climate Friendly Park website (http://www.nps.gov/climatefriendlyparks/parks/applicant_parks.html).

Potential Funding Sources – Not applicable for becoming a Climate Friendly Park. The CFP process helps identify funding opportunities common to all park programs to implement actions.

Key Contacts – The Climate Friendly Parks program is led by an interdisciplinary team from the NPS Park Facility Management Division's Sustainable Operations and Climate Change Branch and the NPS Air Resources Division, CFP@nps.gov



Commercial Services Plan

Objective

A commercial services plan is an implementation plan that provides direction to park management on commercial visitor services for the period of planning, usually 10 to 20 years.

Description Of The Product Or Service

The National Park Service may develop a commercial services plan to cover gaps revealed by a commercial services strategy or to implement that strategy when appropriate. When developing or amending a general management plan or initiating other relevant planning documents (e.g., visitor use management plan, river management plan, backcountry management plan, climbing management plan, etc.), evaluate the appropriateness of including commercial visitor services in the scope to avoid future duplication of effort, when possible.

The commercial services plan typically will go through the NEPA process (either an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement) with public involvement and a range of alternatives including financial feasibility analysis. Although the result of an iterative process where the National Park Service develops and considers a variety of alternatives, a final commercial services plan should consider only those alternatives proposing operations that provide future commercial services operators a financially viable opportunity.

A commercial services plan typically includes the following elements:

- The park's foundation document and a list of all approved management plans
- A table of existing permitted commercial visitor services
- The park-specific criteria for necessary and appropriate
- The history of commercial visitor services within the park
- A chart identifying existing and potential commercial visitor services against the necessary and appropriate criteria



Commercial Services Plan (continued)

- Documentation of those unnecessary and inappropriate commercial visitor services for the park area identified during scoping and other public involvement
- Identification of commercial visitor services within park management zones and in relation to other visitor activities within the park and the authorities used to manage those activities
- An assessment of existing, planned, or potential commercial visitor services and facilities outside the park
- An assessment of visitor use demand and the local market and management strategies (if not already analyzed in existing visitor use management plan[s])
- Alternatives considering new, expanded, reduced, or altered commercial visitor services
- Financial feasibility of proposed alternatives
- A description of implementation strategy for proposed commercial visitor services

Cost Estimate – \$75,000–\$150,000

Time Frame – 9–18 months

Example – To be identified

Potential Funding Sources – Park Planning and Special Studies Division – Unit Management Plan fund source; Concessions Franchise Fee

Key Contacts – Debra Hecox, Branch Chief, Planning & Development, Commercial Services, WASO, debra_hecox@nps.gov; Wendy Berhman, WASO Park Planning & Special Studies, wendy_berhman@nps.gov



Commercial Services Strategy

Objective

The National Park Service develops a commercial services strategy (CSS) to determine whether existing or new services, including potential new facilities, are addressed in approved management plans.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRODUCT OR SERVICE

NPS Management Policies 2006 section 10.2.2 require parks to have in place a commercial services strategy to ensure concession facilities and services are necessary and appropriate, financially viable, and addressed in an approved management plan. The CSS process consists of reviewing and evaluating current approved management plans to determine whether the proposed commercial visitor services comply with those planning decisions. To the extent the approved plans do not support providing certain services, the National Park Service either must not pursue those services or complete additional planning to support a decision to provide them.

A commercial services strategy is not an implementation plan, but rather evaluates existing implementation plans to determine whether authority exists to provide a given commercial visitor service. The commercial services strategy also provides an opportunity for focused market research for potential new services or additional contracts or commercial use authorizations for existing services. Ideally, a commercial services strategy includes public engagement and comment.

Park staff usually develops a commercial services strategy with assistance from the regional concessions program and/or park planning programs, as appropriate. An option for parks to develop a commercial services strategy is engaging interns through the [National Parks Business Plan Internship](#); contact the NPS [Business Management Group](#) for more information.

A typical commercial services strategy considers or contains

- the park's foundation document and a list of approved relevant management plans
- a list of existing authorized commercial visitor services (concession contracts, commercial use authorizations, and/or leases)
- identification of park management zones
- park-specific criteria for necessary and appropriate
- identification of existing similar services in nearby areas

(continued on next page)



Commercial Services Strategy (continued)

- a list of existing and desired resource conditions and standards for the conditions
- commitments for managing and implementing commercial visitor use
- implementation considerations and future planning recommendations based on outstanding decisions (e.g., overall park visitor use management strategies, authorizing a new concession, expanding or altering an existing concession, constructing additional infrastructure, and/or additional staffing requirements)
- public engagement and comment
- identification of the external and internal factors that could significantly affect achievement of the goals

Cost Estimate – See funding sources below

Time Frame – 3–4 months

Example – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – Park staff usually develops a commercial services strategy with assistance from regional concessions and/or park planning programs as appropriate. An option for parks to develop a commercial services strategy is engaging interns through the [National Parks Business Plan Internship](#); contact the NPS [Business Management Group](#) for more information.

Key Contacts – Debra Hecox, Branch Chief, Planning & Development, WASO Commercial Services, debra_hecox@nps.gov; Wendy Berhman, WASO Park Planning & Special Studies, wendy_berhman@nps.gov



Community/Partner Assessment

Objective

Many parks are looking to build relationships with organizations in their surrounding communities. In newer parks, NPS staff may want to prioritize relationships among a network of interested organizations. Other parks may want to establish relationships with nonprofit organizations to help strengthen community awareness and support for a park. These relationships may ultimately accomplish a variety of mutually beneficial purposes, such as better marketing of the park's significance and resources, volunteer-raising, fundraising, or simply gathering additional resources to accomplish specific projects. The assessment introduces park staff to the partnership arena, and will help to build their investment in the outcomes below.

Description Of The Product Or Service

The assessment is an internal strategy session (among park staff) organized into four parts:

- (1) **Internal evaluation** – assess the capabilities lacking in the park that partners may be best suited to fill.
 - Outcome: park staff clearly articulate their needs (for instance, fundraising, volunteer-raising) and tangible incentives they can offer to partners.
- (2) **Community scan** – park staff identify potential community partners and examine their mission, goals, major initiatives, and organizational capacity. Staff from the local and regional Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) programs could assist with identifying community partners.
 - Outcome: an inventory of potential partners and community allies with high-level facts about each respective organization.



Community/Partner Assessment (continued)

(3) **Prioritization** – determine the most promising potential partners based on park needs, organizational mission alignment, and organizational capacity (factors such as number of members, geographic proximity, and demonstrated fundraising capacity).

- Outcome: a prioritized list of partners based on park needs, each organization's potential, and the anticipated role of each organization.

(4) Take action – establish a strategy for contacting the most promising partners, which would include the messages most likely to be appealing to those groups and specific projects/proposals to encourage interaction and relationship building.

- Outcome: a concrete strategy for outreach to specific organizations, including who will contact them, how, when, and with what messages.

Cost Estimate – Less than \$10,000

Time Frame – Less than 2 months

Example – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – Recreation fees

Key Contacts – DSC Planning Division, Barbara_j_johnson@nps.gov, Local RTCA staff



Cultural Landscape Inventory

Objective

The cultural landscape inventory is primarily an inventory and analysis product. It has three primary functions:

- 1) To identify cultural landscapes and provide information on their location.
- 2) To record information about cultural landscape resources related to their identification, description, historical development, landscape characteristics and features, and management.
- 3) To assist managers and cultural resource specialists in determining treatment and management decisions and then to record those decisions.

Description Of The Product Or Service

Cultural landscapes are settings that people have created in the natural world, ranging from formal gardens to cattle ranches and from cemeteries and pilgrimage routes to village squares. They are special places—expressions of human manipulation and adaptation to the land. Cultural landscapes contain objects both natural and constructed—plants, fences, watercourses, and buildings. In recent decades, awareness and recognition of cultural landscapes has expanded nationally and internationally. The identification, preservation, and management of cultural landscapes have become an increasingly important concern for the National Park Service. The inventory document the features and qualities that make a particular cultural landscape significant and worth preserving.

The assemblage of park cultural landscape inventories will result in the comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system. It is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, or otherwise managed as cultural resources. Cultural landscape inventories provide landscape managers with an understanding of the history, evolution, and significance of their properties to enable informed and thoughtful stewardship.

Cost Estimate – \$25,000–\$125,000

Time Frame – 3–18 months

Example – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – Cultural resource fund sources

Key Contacts – Randall J. Biallas, Chief, WASO Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Division, randy_biallas@nps.gov



Cultural Landscape Report

Objective

To guide park management and preservation treatment decisions for cultural landscapes and landscape features.

Description of the Product or Service

A cultural landscape report is the primary document for guiding management and preservation of cultural landscapes. The report provides managers with an in-depth understanding of the history, evolution, and significance of their properties to enable informed and thoughtful stewardship. A complete cultural landscape report typically includes a narrative site history, an inventory and assessment of existing conditions, an evaluation of significance and integrity using criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places or National Historic Landmarks programs, and most importantly, recommendations for future landscape treatment. Treatment recommendations may take different forms, depending on project objectives, from a set of design or management guidelines to a detailed site plan for rehabilitation or restoration. This content provides the basis for making sound decisions about management, treatment, and use. The cultural landscape methodology is described in the publication, *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports*. http://www.nps.gov/cultural_landscapes/Documents/Guide_to_Cultural_Landscapes.pdf

A cultural landscape report must be prepared by a team of qualified professionals. Qualifications for preservation professionals are found in Director's Order 28: *Cultural Resource Management*, appendix E.

Cost Estimate – \$150,000–\$200,000.

Time Frame – 12–36 months

Example – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – Cultural resource fund sources

Key Contacts – Randall J. Biallas, Chief, WASO Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Division, randy_biallas@nps.gov



Cultural Resource Management Plan

Objective

A cultural resources management plan provides specific guidance and sets priorities for the long-term management of park cultural resources.

Description of the Product or Service

The cultural resource management plan is essential to guide the overall management direction of cultural resources over a 15- to 20-year period. The plan provides guidance for management to be carried out in a manner that is consistent with legislative and regulatory provisions and with implementing policies and procedures such as The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation (48 Federal Register 44716-740), and The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act (63 Federal Register 20497-508). Due to the complexity and potential for significant impacts to cultural resources, cultural resources management plans are often environmental impact statements under the National Environmental Policy Act.

This scope of the plan may be limited to a single cultural resource type (i.e., archeological resources management plan) or may be comprehensive, encompassing all cultural resources types present at a park. Cultural resources management plans may be developed in response to threats to cultural resources or other pressing management concerns. The plan identifies cultural resources, future research needs, the most appropriate uses for cultural resources and determines the ultimate treatment (preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, reconstruction), or in certain cases deliberate neglect or destruction, for cultural resources. The plan explores alternative management options for cultural resources and provides site-specific direction for long-term management and monitoring. The plan can also present opportunities for resource-based interpretation and enhanced visitor experience.

Cost Estimate – \$250,000–\$450,000

Time Frame – 1–2 years

Example – Isle Royale Cultural Resource Management Plan – PEPC #33691; Archeological Resources Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement– PEPC #34314; Cultural Resource Management Plan for Iyat, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve – PEPC #11413

Potential Funding Sources – WASO Park Planning and Special Studies Division – Unit Management Plan fund source, Environmental Quality Division fund source, Cultural resource fund sources

Key Contacts – Randall J. Biallas, Chief, WASO Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Division, randy_biallas@nps.gov



Design Charrette

Objective

To generate on a collaborative basis a design solution for a specific site issue.

Description of the Product or Service

A design charrette is a collaborative session in which participants work quickly to generate a design solution. Participants may be split into subgroups to tackle an aspect of the issue or explore an opportunity, bringing ideas together to create a single comprehensive solution. One or more sessions may be held to accomplish the task. Members of the group are typically design professionals, but the make-up of the group is often interdisciplinary. Design charrettes are often employed in the process of developing master plans, site plans, development concept plans, site suitability analysis, integrated design facilitation, and accessibility transition plans.

The design charrette is related to integrated design facilitation, a process that uses a collaborative method for development of a holistic design. It invites all affected parties into the planning process. The integrated design process requires multidisciplinary collaboration, including key stakeholders and design professionals, from conception to completion. It frequently begins with a charrette or eco-charrette, an intensive design workshop, in which many stakeholders gather to set goals and identify strategies for achieving the desired outcomes. Stakeholders share their knowledge and trade-offs and connections are recognized. Problems are reframed and better solutions are generated by creating an innovative and collaborative environment where each opinion matters. To offer an example for a construction project, a planner might lead a charrette with design and construction staff, park staff, and as relevant other outside stakeholders, to set goals and identify strategies for the final construction process and the final construction product.

Cost Estimate – \$10,000–\$35,000

Time Frame – 3–6 months

Example(s) – Not yet identified

Potential Funding Sources – Typically a design charrette is a discrete part of a larger process, such as a master plan project.

Key Contacts – Barbara J. Johnson, Denver Service Center Planning Division,
Barbara_J_Johnson@nps.gov



Guidelines and Principles

Objective

The purpose of this product is to provide the park with design guidelines and principles to be used in a construction project within the park unit. The guidelines and principles provide for consistent treatment for new amenities and features and guide their implementation. Their application can help to create a sense of place that is unique within a park unit or in contrast to surrounding lands.

Description of the Product or Service

The product provides graphic studies for a variety of levels, such as the park as a whole, an area of a park, and/or an individual program (e.g., camping, etc.). It is meant to build and improve upon the unique characteristics and aesthetics of a particular area, and the overall quality of facilities and other components (signage, waysides, parking, trails, etc.) within it. The guidelines are often used by the park as a discussion tool to engage the public, stakeholders, and future tenants, and are not necessarily produced as a final document. The guidelines may

- describe an approach to designing recreation and administrative facilities (site elements) and other components that highlight key elements of the NPS identity and image
- establish and define architectural and other component characteristics and materials
- create consistency within whatever scale is chosen and provide a guide of design elements (design tool kit) for park and regional staff to consult when starting new construction projects
- provide practical and outlined specification guidance for maintenance staff
- aim to ensure thoughtful design and management of the built environment that reflects and respects the surrounding landscape and scale
- make the design place-based
- provide an inventory of existing features and site elements

Cost Estimate – \$10,000–\$100,000

Time Frame – 1–18 months

Example(s) – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – Construction program funding; Park-funded

Key Contacts – DSC Planning: Barbara J. Johnson: Barbara_J_Johnson@nps.gov; Kerri Cahill, Kerri_Cahill@nps.gov



Design Concept Graphics and Illustrations

Objective

This is intended to illustrate complex design concepts, such as those presented in a plan proposal, so that decision-makers and the public have a clear idea of how a design would be executed on the ground.

Description of the Product or Service

This product develops presentation graphics that will serve to “bring to life,” in an illustrative format, ideas and concepts in management plans, master plans, and similar documents. Presentation graphics are often more understandable to many audiences than a typical plan view. They can be used as a tool for promoting or marketing an idea to the public, stakeholders, or potential tenants, building support and even inspiring these audiences. This product could tier off from the Design Guidelines and Principles product.

Cost Estimate – \$10,000–\$100,000

Time Frame – 1–18 months

Example – Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, Site Plan and Perspective Drawings, June 2014

Potential Funding Sources – WASO Park Planning and Special Studies – Unit Management Plan fund source (as part of a larger master plan/site plan project) Park-funded

Key Contacts – DSC Planning Division: Barbara J. Johnson, Barbara_J_Johnson@nps.gov, Kerri Cahill, Kerri_Cahill@nps.gov



Editing Services

Objective

To ensure that text in DSC documents and other printed or posted text is clearly written, grammatically correct, and conforms to the *Denver Service Center Editorial Style Guide*¹ and Director's Order 52B: *Graphic Design Standards*.

Description of the Product or Service

DSC editing services range from copyediting (spelling and grammar corrections, usually 5 to 10 pages per hour), to substantive editing (significantly rewording/reorganizing text, usually 1 to 5 pages per hour), to formatting (usually 10 to 15 pages per hour). Editors can edit a variety of materials—postcards, flyers, posters, Web text, newsletters, brochures, and small to large documents. Editing is performed in-house by on-site editors or is contracted out to prescreened vendors. Editing services also include formatting materials to a camera-ready format for printing, posting on the Web, or importing into desktop publishing software, i.e., InDesign.

Cost Estimate

The cost of editing services is driven by (1) level of editing desired/needed, (2) number of pages, and (3) editor's hourly rate (approximately \$77.50/hour). For example, the cost for editing a 350-page document could be

Substantive editing:	350 pages @ 5/hour	= 70 hours
Formatting:	350 pages @ 15/hour	= 23 hours
Total:	93 hours × \$77.50	= \$7,207

If editing services are contracted out, additional funding is needed for project management and clerical support.

Key Contacts – Jim Corbett, Branch Chief, DSC Publication Services,
jim_corbett@nps.gov

¹ The *DSC Editorial Style Guide* is based on *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th Edition, University of Chicago Press, Chicago, IL, 2010; and *Scientific Style and Format—The CSE Manual for Authors, Editors, and Publishers*, Seventh Edition, Council of Science Editors, Rockefeller University Press, Reston, VA, 2006.

Fire Management Plan

Objective

The purpose of a fire management plan (FMP) is to provide guidance for firefighter and public safety; to develop fire management strategies, tactics, and alternatives; to identify significant values for protective management actions; and to maintain consistency with resource management objectives, area activities, and environmental laws and regulations.

Description of the Product or Service

The planning process for a fire management plan requires that a high level of detail be provided for various plan elements, and the process follows a fire management plan template. The required degree of detail mirrors the complexity of maintaining interagency consistency when dealing with fire, and the challenges of managing the potentially wide-reaching impacts caused by fire and management actions to suppress, contain, or allow it, both within park boundaries and outside of them. The plan identifies fire management goals and objectives that provide the programmatic direction for the fire program. The plan should relate directly to the park's general management plan and natural and cultural resource management plans so that it can help to achieve resource management objectives.

The fire management plan should be reviewed annually to ensure currency with laws and management objectives and to evaluate conformity and compliance with the annual work program. A comprehensive FMP review and updated plan is required every five years.

Cost Estimate – \$50,000 - \$200,000

Time Frame – 1–3 years

Example – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources

Park and/or region wildland fire 'support' dollars, with contributed input from ONPS staff; Individual project requests for fuels project planning.

Key Contacts – To be provided



Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Technical Assistance



Objective

This technical assistance service assists and supports park staff in addressing specific issues related to fishing, fisheries management, aquatic species and habitat restoration and conservation, and aquatic invasive species prevention and mitigation.

Description of the Product or Service

The most common product resulting from a technical assistance request is a trip report with recommended actions and activities. Other work products that may result from technical assistance requests include reviews of current literature or data, technical reports, study/sample design, development of study proposals or plans, memoranda of understanding or agreement, and representation in interagency forums or at public meetings.

People and offices likely to be involved in a technical assistance request include:

- Internal Involvement: Park unit, Denver Service Center NEPA staff, regional inventory and monitoring staff, regional planning staff, Environmental Quality Division, Water Resources Division staff, and solicitor.
- External Involvement: State fisheries management agency and/or department of natural resources, tribal governments, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (if coastal unit with marine fish), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other federal agencies, and various nongovernment stakeholders.

To obtain technical assistance, enter a request in Solution for Technical Assistance Requests or STAR (<https://irma.nps.gov/Star/>). Requests can be submitted annually through the Natural Resources Stewardship and Science technical assistance call or as an ad-hoc request throughout the year.

Cost Estimate – Not identified – see funding source below

Time Frame – Assistance may consist of single consultations or multi-year efforts.

Examples – Cuyahoga Valley National Park - Virginia Kendall Reservoir Study Report
Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve – Topeka Shiner Management

Potential Funding Sources – Initial and short term costs may be borne by the Water Resources Division. Additional funds may be required to cover costs related to multiple site visits (trips to the park) or for the publication of reports and plans.

Key Contact– John Wullschleger, Fish Program Lead, Water Resources Division, Natural Resources Stewardship and Science, John_Wullschleger@nps.gov

Fisheries Management Plan / Aquatic Resources Management Plan

Objective

A fisheries management plan provides guidance for recreational fishing opportunities for visitors, while ensuring conservation of native species and aquatic ecosystems. An aquatic resources management plan may be desirable to address issues that are not directly related to fishing such as native species reintroduction or habitat restoration.

Description of the Product or Service

The process for developing the plan includes the review, analysis, and summary of existing data; internal and public scoping; participation of interdisciplinary teams; alternatives development; environmental assessment or impact analysis; and preparation of the decision document. The scope of the plan reflects the scale of the fisheries management area(s), the level of participation of and provision of technical assistance from partners, the availability of current data on the distribution and abundance of species and habitats, and the need for interaction with potential threatened and endangered species. These factors influence the project's cost and timeframe.

People and offices likely to be involved in a fisheries management planning effort include:

- Internal Involvement: Park unit, regional natural resources and planning staff, Denver Service Center NEPA staff, network inventory and monitoring staff, Environmental Quality Division, Water Resources Division staff, and solicitor.
- External Involvement: State fisheries or natural resources management programs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (if the park is a coastal unit with marine fish), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other federal agencies, and nongovernmental organizations.

Cost Estimate – \$50,000–\$250,000, assuming preparation of an environmental assessment

Time Frame – 2–3 years

Example – Biscayne National Park Fisheries Management Plan

Potential Funding Source – Natural Resource fund sources under the Servicewide Comprehensive Call; Water Resources High Priority Fund (for limited or pilot plans); Challenge Cost Share

Key Contacts – John Wullschleger, Fish Program Lead, Water Resources Division, Natural Resources Stewardship and Science, John_Wullschleger@nps.gov



Foundation Document

Objective

Each unit of the national park system is required to have a formal statement of its core mission that will provide basic guidance for all planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. It provides information necessary to effectively manage the park over the long term and to protect park resources and values that are integral to the purpose and identity of the park unit. The development of a park foundation document provides the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park.

Description of the Product or Service

The park foundation is developed as a collaborative effort among park staff and specialists in various program areas. The multidisciplinary approach provides the opportunity for a variety of sources and hierarchies of information about a park unit to be compiled and integrated. The information is then refined and focused to determine the most important attributes of the park.

A park foundation describes the core mission of the park unit by identifying the purpose, significance, fundamental and other important resources and values, interpretive themes, special mandates and administrative commitments, and the unit's setting in the regional context. It also presents an assessment of planning and data needs that will guide future planning efforts for the park unit. These components are briefly described below:

- The **park purpose statement** identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park.
- **Significance statements** express why a park's resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system.
- **Fundamental resources and values** are those that warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.
- **Other important resources or values** are those that are determined to be integral to park planning and management, even if they are not related to the park's purpose.

(continued on next page)



Foundation Document (continued)

- **Interpretive themes** are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park.
- Many management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by **special mandates and administrative commitments**.
- The **assessment of planning and data needs** presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data. The assessment includes: (1) an analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values; (2) the identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs; and (3) the identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps)

Cost Estimate – \$40,000-\$7,000

Time Frame – 6-12 months

Example(s) – share.nps.gov/foundations

Potential Funding Sources – WASO Park Planning and Special Studies Division
- Unit Management Plan Fund Source (for units covered by the 2016 foundation initiative)

Key Contacts

Nancy Shock, Foundation Coordinator, DSC Planning Division, nancy_shock@nps.gov,
Regional planning chiefs



General Management Plan

Objective

This comprehensive plan sets long-term goals for the park and provides broad direction for resource preservation and visitor use. It provides a framework for decision making at the broadest level, and a variety of implementation plans tier off from the plan.

Description of Product or Service

A general management plan defines the desired natural and cultural resource conditions to be achieved and maintained over time and conditions needed for visitors to understand, enjoy, and appreciate the park's resources; identifies the types of management activities, visitor use, and development that are appropriate for maintaining the desired conditions; and investigates the need for boundary adjustments. Through the planning process, which employs an interdisciplinary team approach and a robust public involvement component, park managers and stakeholders develop a shared understanding of the conditions and level of development that will best achieve the park's purpose and conserve its resources. Typically, the plan is parkwide, although a general management plan can be done to plan comprehensively for a sub-area of a park.

An initiative is underway to modernize the general management plan so that it will function as a more flexible component of the revised NPS planning framework. At the same time, through the park planning portfolio concept, the use of incremental plans to fulfill the requirements for general management planning is being defined. However, the comprehensive general management plan will remain a part of the planning program, in a redesigned format that will enable it to meet planning needs in a cost- and time-efficient way.

For wild and scenic rivers and national trails, the analogous documents are a comprehensive river management plan and comprehensive trail management plan, respectively.

Cost Estimate – \$400,000–\$800,000

Time Frame – 3 years

Example – Fort Matanzas General Management Plan – PEPC# 11093

Potential Funding Sources – WASO Park Planning and Special Studies Division – Unit Management Plan Fund Source

Key Contact – Patrick Gregerson, Program Manager, Park Planning and Special Studies, patrick.gregerson@nps.gov



GIS Analysis

Objective

To provide geographic information systems (GIS) analysis, also known as spatial analysis, to parks, regions, and programs to better leverage location information and identify spatial trends and correlations GIS analysis can markedly increase understanding of management proposals and actions through a scientifically based process.

Description of Product or Service

There are a variety of GIS analysis products available to serve a wide range of project needs. GIS analysis is typically completed as part of an existing project or plan, but can also be completed as a stand-alone GIS product to serve specific park or program needs. GIS analysis may use a variety of existing data sources from all sectors of government as well as private sources. Where needed data are not available, data can be created or collected from the field at additional cost. Analysis results are summarized along with methodology that clearly states data sources, quality, and assumptions or interpolations applied. The precise methods can result from iterative analysis with variable adjustment in close interaction with project staff. Final data products from analysis are formatted in established standards and fully documented with standard metadata. The following are just a few types of GIS analysis products:

- **Suitability Analysis.** Identify the locations most suitable for development, resource protection, etc., based on the relationship between multiple layers of GIS information.
- **Overlay Analysis.** Understand critical areas of need or “hotspots” based on the additive layering of several GIS layers. Similar to Suitability Analysis, Overlay Analysis allows for identification of spatial correlations that may not otherwise be readily evident.
- **Temporal/Change Analysis.** Identify spatial change over time by comparing time-stamped layers. Change Analysis may be used to identify trends and correlations over small or large areas.
- **Viewshed Analysis.** Understand what can and cannot be seen from a particular location; identify locations where new development can be seen.
- **3-D Analysis.** Visualize and analyze resources in a 3-D environment to increase understanding of planned management actions.
- **Asset Analysis.** Link facilities management software system variables to spatial data to visualize and analyze facility condition, priority, and deferred maintenance.



(continued on next page)

GIS Analysis (continued)

The following are just a few of the typical planning products where GIS analyses can be applied throughout the project lifecycle:

- **General/Unit Management Plan.** Identify management zoning and analyze impacts.
- **Climate Change Scenario Planning.** Analyze and visualize climate change impacts (sea level rise, erosion, habitat change, etc.) on park resources.
- **Fire Management Plans.** Identify management zoning and analyze and model impacts.
- **Visitor Use Management Plans.** Identify, analyze, and visualize density and distribution of park visitors as well as analyze impacts of particular planned management actions.
- **Visual Resource Inventory and Management.** Provide understanding of visual resources via viewshed and 3-D analyses.

Cost Estimate – \$500–\$5,000

Time Frame – Variable

Example(s) – None identified. The analysis is not usually produced as a stand-alone document.

Potential Funding Sources – GIS analysis may be a component of a larger project funded under the Unit Management Plan and other fund sources;
Regional GIS programs

Key Contact – Doug Wilder, GIS Program Lead, DSC Planning, doug_wilder@nps.gov



GIS Park Atlas

Objective

The purpose of the park atlas is to support park projects and daily operations as well as to facilitate planning decisions as a GIS-based planning support tool. The park atlas is currently being developed as part of the park foundation document process, although it can also be created as an independent product.

Description of the Product or Service

A park atlas is a geographic information system (GIS) product that is published as a hard copy paper atlas and as electronic geospatial data in a web-mapping environment. The park atlas contains a variety of GIS data and is composed of two main products:

- large format, paper-based map atlas
- web-mapping site

Discipline-Specific Atlas: For parks that already have the comprehensive “park atlas” product and want to focus more in-depth on a specific topic, there is the option to create an atlas that is focused on a particular discipline (i.e., cultural resources, climate change, climbing, fire management, etc.). The discipline-specific atlas can contain much more detail than the typical park atlas, often at a larger scale, and could also contain text descriptions and other media and could be paper and/or web-based.

Cost Estimate – \$3,000–\$6,000

Time Frame – To be provided

Example – <http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov>

Potential Funding Sources – WASO Park Planning and Special Studies Division - Unit Management Plan fund source (as part of the park foundation document project); Regional GIS programs

Key Contact – Doug Wilder, GIS Program Lead, DSC Planning,
doug_wilder@nps.gov





Real-time GIS Service

Objective

To facilitate rapid geospatial recognition, insight and query of project data via the application of geographic information systems (GIS) tools and geographic data browsing capabilities in real time during meetings and one-on-one cooperation with principal investigators and project managers.

Description of Product or Service

Real-time GIS consists of a skilled specialist providing on-the-fly application of GIS tools and data visualization capabilities during meetings or one-on-one work sessions. DSC GIS staff familiarize themselves with project goals and prepare project data for exploration during meetings to answer questions that arise during the course of discussion and provide visual perspectives on project data and areas. Map views are projected in large screen format and can be shared via web meeting software with remote meeting attendees. Capabilities of real-time GIS include:

- Explore geospatial options and juxtapositions such as with facility or zone placement.
- Instantaneous and accurate geometrics such as area, distance and perimeter measurements. Real-time questions such as "How many acres would that be if we placed the boundary here?" can be reliably answered.
- Geospatial visualizations of project data including ground-level, oblique aerial and landscape fly-through perspectives.
- Documentation of iterative spatial configuration considerations and options that arise during the course of a meeting.
- Instantaneous answers to a variety of geospatial questions including simple intersections or correlations of project data. For example, provided the data are on hand, a skilled GIS specialist and quickly answer a question such as "How many deer were observed in this area?" or "What does 10 feet off each side of the trail look like over the whole area?"

Real-time GIS service can be scheduled for group meetings or individual sessions with project managers and principal investigators.

Cost Estimate – \$500–\$5,000

Time Frame – Variable

Example(s) – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – Park or program funded; Component of a planning project funded under another fund source

Key Contact – Douglas T. Wilder, GIS Program Lead, DSC Planning,
doug_wilder@nps.gov

Historic Structure Report

Objective

A historic structure report is prepared in order to minimize loss of character-defining features and materials when existing information about the developmental history and condition of a historic structure does not provide an adequate basis on which to address anticipated management objectives; when there are alternative courses of action for impending treatment that could have adverse effects; or to record treatment.

Description of the Product or Service

The historic structure report is the primary guide for the treatment and use of a historic structure and its immediate environment. A separate historic structure report should be prepared for every major structure managed as a cultural resource, although groups of similar structures or ensembles of small, simple structures may be addressed in a single report. All plans for rehabilitation, restoration, or reconstruction of any historic structure must be undertaken with an approved historic structure report containing parts 1 and 2. Potential overlaps with other cultural and natural resources will be identified in the historic structure report. A historic structure report and analogous reports (e.g., cultural landscape report) may be combined to address multiple resource types at a single property or area.

Cost Estimate – \$100,000–\$350,000

Time Frame – 6 months–1 year

Examples – *Historic Structure Report for Mine Support Structures, Gulf Islands National Seashore*, PEPC #50583; *Historic Structure Report for Battery 234 CRF/BCS Tower, Gulf Islands National Seashore*, PEPC #50582; *Youngsholm Historic Structure Report, Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Memorial*, PEPC #47831

Potential Funding Sources – Cultural resource fund sources

Key Contacts Randall J. Biallas, Chief, WASO Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Division, randy_biallas@nps.gov



Historic Structure Reuse Plan

Objective

The historic structure reuse plan investigates and identifies adaptive reuse alternatives for historic structures. This implementation plan includes an evaluation, cost analysis, and selection of effective strategies that protect resources and meet legal requirements.

Description of the Product or Service

The historic structures reuse plan evaluates alternative long-term uses of selected structures to determine their potential for accommodating the use requirements of the National Park Service. The plan may target individual buildings or structures in a park, specific areas of a park, or be inclusive of the entire unit. The planning process includes the use of the Total Cost of Facility Ownership calculator for reused historic structures.

Cost Estimate – \$150,000–\$350,000

Time Frame – 1–2 years

Examples – Cape Lookout Village Structures Reuse Implementation Plan, Cape Lookout National Seashore; East and South Vancouver Barracks Master Plan, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site ; Presidio of San Francisco: Historic Structures Adaptive Reuse Study

Potential Funding Sources – Cultural resource fund sources

Key Contacts– Randall J. Biallas, Chief, WASO Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Division, randy_biallas@nps.gov



Hunting Management Plan

Objective

Hunting is strictly prohibited in national park units unless there is specific park legislation that lifts the prohibition against hunting. For a park where hunting is permitted, the objectives of the plan are to present alternatives that are in the best interest of park resources and the public, while meeting the requirements set forth by the National Park Service, the park enabling legislation, and all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Description of the Product or Service

Internal scoping, public scoping, facilitation of interdisciplinary team, alternatives development, environmental impact analysis, and preparation of the decision document are among the products/services provided. The scope of the plan depends on the level of public involvement, number of species that will be hunted, the scale of wildlife management area, whether there is already hunting at the unit, cooperation of partners, whether current data are available on modeling of population of game/wildlife species, interaction with potential threatened and endangered species, and whether facilities will be required for access. These factors influence project costs and time frame.

People and offices likely to be involved in a hunting management planning effort:

- Internal Involvement. Park unit, Denver Service Center NEPA staff, regional inventory and monitoring staff, regional planning staff, Biological Resource Management Division staff, and solicitor
- External Involvement. State wildlife agency and/or department of natural resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Cost Estimate – \$125,000–\$175,000 (for an environmental assessment)

Time Frame – To be provided

Example – Big Cypress Hunting Management Plan

Potential Funding Sources – There is no dedicated funding source for this product.

Key Contacts – Barbara J Johnson, DSC-Planning, Barbara_J_Johnson@nps.gov; Elaine Leslie, Biological Resources Management Division, Elaine_Leslie@nps.gov



Integrated Park Improvements

Objective

At a time when the National Park Service is experiencing limiting fiscal circumstances, it is a challenge to effectively manage park assets while protecting park resources and enriching visitor experience. The integrated park improvements (IPI) process leverages funding to create a cost effective, holistic plan that produces tangible asset improvements to particular park districts. The integrated park improvements process can improve a district, reduce deferred maintenance, and estimate ongoing operation and maintenance (O&M) costs.

Description of the Product or Service

There are two products within integrated park improvements: IPI and IPI Light.

1. IPI was first conducted for Shenandoah National Park in the Big Meadows district. This process results in identification of priority projects that improve the district, reduce deferred maintenance, and streamline ongoing operational costs. Projects in seven discipline areas—natural resources, cultural resources, interpretation, transportation, facilities, infrastructure, and concessions—are identified, mapped, and ranked. Costs are assessed and projects are bundled to maximize economies of scale and constructability savings. Funding streams are identified and matched to project costs. The result is an investment strategy that improves the district (for all disciplines), eliminates deferred maintenance, and estimates ongoing O&M costs required to keep deferred maintenance at zero. IPI focuses on improvement to resources and visitor experience, while minimizing new construction.

2. IPI Light is a smaller undertaking, tailored to meet the park's needs. It can consist of a charrette or discrete tasks that meet part of the objectives of integrated park improvements. Potential IPI Light products and outcomes include

- interdisciplinary project prioritization to enable efficient Project Management Information System (PMIS) statement creation
- identification of low-priority assets that could be removed
- assessment of probable costs or more detailed cost estimates, including use of the Total Cost of Ownership calculator for any new or rehabilitated structures.
- research and mapping for resources, facilities, infrastructure, etc.; research on funding streams

Cost Estimate – Under \$200,000

Time Frame – Less than 12 months

Example – Big Meadows project, Shenandoah National Park

Potential Funding Sources – Park Planning and Special Studies Division – Unit Management Plan fund source; Park Facilities Management Division

Key Contacts – Kevin Percival, Facilities Planning Branch, Park Facilities Management Division, kevin_percival@nps.gov



Integrated Pest Management Plan

Objective

Integrated pest management planning is a decision-making process that coordinates knowledge of pest biology, the environment, and available technology to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage by cost-effective means while posing the least possible risk to people, resources, and the environment.

Description of the Product or Service

There is no standard format for integrated pest management (IPM) plans because they are site specific and should be designed to help meet a park's specific pest management objectives. However, IPM plans have several key components;

- **Background.** Briefly discuss the need to manage pests at the park site.
- **Site description(s).** Document the conditions at the park site.
- **Objectives.** Identify the specific pest(s) that require management and indicate the condition(s) to be attained to consider pest management at the site a success. Pest management objectives should be attainable, time-specific, and measurable.
- **Consensus building and partnerships.** Identify partnerships the park will use to help meet the park's pest management objectives. Build consensus with potential stakeholders in deciding pest management plans, actions, and goals.
- **Pest biology.** Describe the life history of each pest species, including factors relevant to its introduction, growth, dispersal, reproduction, etc.
- **Monitoring and mapping.** Clearly define monitoring and mapping protocols and who will be responsible for these activities.
- **Action thresholds.** An action threshold is the point at which action is taken to reduce the pest population. Establish clear action thresholds before implementing management strategies to reduce the pest populations.
- **Review of management options and tools.** Include a comprehensive review of known management options and their efficacy.



(continued on next page)

Integrated Pest Management Plan (continued)



- **Compliance with applicable authorities.** Before implementing any pest management strategy, ensure that the park is complying with applicable authorities.
- **Select pest management strategies and prioritization.** Identify the management strategies the park will employ to manage pest(s) based on the analysis of the available tools and their associated benefits and risks.

Some IPM plans may rise to the level of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement if the pest management issue is more complicated.

Cost Estimate – Variable, as park and/or regional office staff can usually write much of the plan.

Time Frame – Less than 12 months for a typical IPM plan; 1–3 years for an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement

Example(s) – Numerous examples can be found at:

<http://www1.nrintra.nps.gov/brmd/ipm/policy.cfm>

Potential Funding Sources – Natural Resources Stewardship and Science

Key Contacts – Carol DiSalvo, Servicewide IPM Coordinator, Biological Resources Management Division, carol_disalvo@nps.gov

Invasive Species Plan – Aquatic Resources

Objective

To provide one or more parks with tools, techniques, and approaches to reduce the risk of aquatic invasive species introduction, establishment, and spread.

Description of the Product or Service

This plan or guidance document describes the current best practices for prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, and containment of one or more invasive species, and identifies activities and approaches to minimize the introduction and spread with optimal use of NPS staff and funding. The document will identify available resources for monitoring, analysis, training, and education/outreach. The scope of the plan, and therefore the timeframe and cost, will vary depending upon the scope and complexity of the issue, species addressed, and sources of expertise.

People and offices likely to be involved in a fisheries management planning effort include:

- Internal Involvement. Park unit, regional natural resources staff, network inventory and monitoring staff, Biological Resources Management Division, and Water Resources Division.
- External Involvement. State fisheries or department of natural resources, tribal governments, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (if coastal unit with marine fish), NOAA Sea Grant, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and/or university experts.

Cost Estimate – \$20,000–\$30,000 (using an all risks incident command team)

Time Frame – To be provided

Examples –

Quagga/Zebra Mussel Infestation Prevention and Response Planning Guide (http://www1.nrintra.nps.gov/wrd/Quagga/QuaggaPlanningGuide_int.pdf)

Emergency Prevention and Response Plan for Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (<http://www.nps.gov/piro/naturescience/upload/VHS%20Plan%20-%20Final%202008Mar14.pdf>)

Lionfish Response Plan: A Systematic Approach to Managing Impacts from the Lionfish, an Invasive Species, in Units of the National Park System (http://www.nature.nps.gov/water/marineinvasives/assets/documents/Lionfish_Response_Plan_%20final_small.pdf)

Potential Funding Sources – To be provided

Key Contacts –John Wullschleger, Fish Program Lead, Water Resources Division, Natural Resources Stewardship and Science, John.Wullschleger@nps.gov



Land Protection Plan

Objective

To ensure that the resources of each park unit are protected in a manner consistent with the stated purpose for which that unit was created.

Description of the Product or Service

For any park unit containing nonfederal land or interests in land within its authorized boundary, a land protection plan documents what lands or interests in land need to be in public ownership and what means of protection are available to achieve the purposes for which the unit was created. The land protection plan is designed to guide land acquisition priorities, which are subject to availability of funds and other constraints. Section 3.3 of NPS *Management Policies 2006* calls for land protection plans to document: (1) the lands or interests in land that would advance park purposes through public ownership, (2) the means of protecting these lands and interests that are available to achieve park purposes as established by Congress, (3) the protection methods and funds that would be sought or applied to protect resources and to provide for visitor use and park facility development, and (4) acquisition priorities.

A land protection plan should be simple and concise, and a park unit seeking to develop a land protection plan could start with a list of the nonfederal lands or interests in lands within its authorized boundary. Many parks have existing land protection plans, which are generally reviewed and updated periodically at the direction of the Superintendent to reflect changing conditions. It should be noted that the template on which many existing plans were based is now outdated.

There is no dedicated funding source for the land protection plan. The development or revision of a land protection plan may be undertaken as a component of a general management plan, strategic plan, and other plans for resource management and visitor use.

Cost Estimate – Varies

Time Frame – Varies

Example – Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Land Protection Plan Update

Potential Funding Sources – Park Planning and Special Studies – Unit Management Plan fund source; Park-funded

Key Contacts – Mike Walsh, Land Resources Program, Mike_Walsh@nps.gov



Library Services

Objective

To provide background information to be used in developing park foundation documents and other NPS planning efforts.

Description of the Product or Service

Professional librarians conduct database literature searches.

Time Frame and Cost Estimate – The time required for each project varies by the size of the park and specific planning needs. In general, small parks require 24–40 hours (\$1,000 to \$1,850); medium parks may take 40–60 hours (\$1,850 to \$2,760); large parks may take 60–120 hours (\$2,760 to \$5,520); and super parks (e.g., Yellowstone) may take 160 plus hours (\$5,500+).

Example – Cuyahoga Valley National Park Foundation Document, July 2013

Potential Funding Sources – Park and program sources (for park foundation documents, this service is funded by the Park Planning and Special Studies Division – Unit Management Plan fund source).

Key Contacts – Nancy Shock, Foundation Coordinator, Nancy_Shock@nps.gov



Long-Range Interpretive Plan

Objective

A long-range interpretive plan provides a vision for the future (5–10 years) of interpretation, education, and visitor experience opportunities at a park unit. The plan identifies and analyzes interpretation, education, and visitor experience goals and issues. The plan recommends the most effective, efficient, and practical way to address those goals and issues.

Description of the Product or Service

A long-range interpretive plan identifies the park's interpretive themes, describes visitor experience goals, and recommends a wide variety of both personal (programs, personal contacts) and nonpersonal (interpretive media and facilities) interpretive services and outreach activities that will best communicate the park's purpose, significance, and themes. Plans match interpretive media to messages to make sure they work well individually and collectively. The interpretive planning process is sensitive to which park resource experiences should be made accessible to visitors. Negative impacts on resources are minimized, and active stewardship is encouraged. A long-range interpretive plan is one component of a park's comprehensive interpretive plan; two other components are the park-produced annual implementation plan and the corresponding park-produced interpretive database.

Cost Estimate – \$50,000-\$75,000

Time Frame – 1–2 years

Example(s) – Numerous examples can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/hfc/services/interp/ip-lrip.cfm>

Potential Funding Sources – Interpretation and Education (Harpers Ferry Center)

Key Contacts – Wendy Davis, Long-Range Interpretive Plan Program Manager, Harpers Ferry Center, wyndeth_davis@nps.gov



Museum Feasibility Report

Objective

To provide to decision makers information in a report that includes the key interpretive goals, building requirements, collections management, cost projection, market analysis, funding analysis, and an implementation schedule, for a museum concept.

Description of the Product or Service

The report provides an analysis of the long-term feasibility of a proposed museum. Common content includes the following:

- mission and vision statement
- background information and justification for need of facility
- museum collections and stewardship strategies
- facility programming and exhibits
- governance and organizational structure
- site assessment (locations, storage, facilities)
- capital and operating budget
- funding analysis
- public engagement

The process begins with developing a clear mission and vision for the museum. Once clear goals are set, potential museum collections and stewardship strategies, as well as facility programming and governance options, are studied. A site assessment addresses potential locations, storage, and facilities operations. A capital and operating budget and funding analysis are completed, including application of the Total Cost of Ownership calculator for any new, acquired, or rehabilitated structures. Coordination with organizations, stakeholders, and the public is critical to further define the feasibility report.

Cost Estimate – \$500,000–\$1 million

Time Frame – To be provided

Example(s) – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – To be provided

Key Contacts – Barbara J Johnson, Planning Division, DSC,
Barbara_j_johnson@nps.gov



National Heritage Area Feasibility Study

Objective

National heritage areas are designated by Congress as places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape. The feasibility study determines if a candidate area meets NPS criteria for national heritage area designation.

Description of the Product or Service

Before a national heritage area (NHA) is designated, Congress requires reliable information about the boundary area, including its resources and their relevance to American history, whether there is support for the designation, and the potential for efficient management by non-NPS entities. Content of the study includes an overview of the resources, the history of the area, identification of a suitable entity for managing the proposed national heritage area, an evaluation of the criteria for designation, management alternatives (should a designation take place), and an overall finding on whether the NHA study area is feasible. The study is undertaken when authorized by Congress, and it can also be initiated by stakeholders.

The process for developing a feasibility study includes information gathering and public involvement; preparing a draft study; providing draft documents for public review; and finalizing the study and transmitting it to Congress. Factors such as the nature of the study area, available documentation of resources, level of involvement of partner organizations, identification of a coordinating entity candidate(s), and level of public involvement affect the scope of the study project, and its cost and timeframe.

Cost Estimate – \$250,000–\$400,000

Time Frame – 3–6 years

Example – St. Croix National Heritage Area Feasibility Study, PEPC # 22621 <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=520&projectID=22621&documentID=42913>

Potential Funding Sources – Park Planning and Special Studies Division – Special Studies fund source (for congressionally-authorized studies)

Key Contacts – Heather Scotten, WASO National Heritage Areas Program, heather.scotten@nps.gov – DSC Planning Division, Barbara_j.johnson@nps.gov



National Heritage Area Management Plans

Objective

The objective of the management plan is to develop a roadmap for management, program/project implementation, and interpretation of the national heritage area for the planning period, typically 10–15 years.

Description of the Product or Service

National heritage areas are designated by Congress as places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape. Through public-private partnerships, NHA entities support historic preservation, natural resources conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects. The National Park Service provides technical, planning, and limited financial assistance to national heritage areas. It serves as a partner and advisor, leaving decision-making authority in the hands of local people and organizations.

National heritage area management plans are conducted in accordance with the law designating a national heritage area, and with guidelines of the National Heritage Area Program. The named local coordinating entity is responsible for the preparation of NHA management plans. The plan describes comprehensive policies, strategies, and recommendations for telling the story of the region's heritage and encouraging long-term resource protection, management, and development of the national heritage area. Typical plan components include: resource inventory; foundation vision, mission, goals, and interpretive themes; comprehensive policies, strategies, and recommendations; actions and commitments of partners; existing and potential sources of funding; implementation and interpretation plans; and a business plan.

Cost Estimate – To be provided

Time Frame – 3-4 years

Example – Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Management Plan, PEPC #22438 <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=423&projectID=22438&documentID=46849>

Potential Funding Sources – The NHA local coordinating entity and heritage area partners fund the plan

Key Contacts – Heather Scotten, WASO National Heritage Areas Program, heather.scotten@nps.gov – DSC Planning Division, Barbara_j.johnson@nps.gov



Off-road Vehicle Management Plan

Objective

This plan guides the management of recreational off-road vehicle (ORV) use in a park unit.

Description of the Product or Service

An ORV plan defines the locations where and the times when travel by an off-road vehicle is permitted within the park. The plan typically defines the types of vehicles that may be permitted to operate within the park boundary, and may include certain specifications for vehicle types, restrictions on utility/camping trailer use on designated ORV routes. They also typically include the development and description of a permitting system and associated fee structure. Permits may be defined for certain locations, times of day, and/or seasons. There is often a ceiling placed on the number of permits allowed to be issued within a given time frame—as a means to protect natural and cultural resources that may be damaged as a result of ORV use. Where routes and areas designated for ORV use are promulgated as special regulations, the National Park Service carries out the rulemaking process concurrently with the development of the ORV management plan and NEPA analysis.

The scope of the plan, and its cost and time frame, are influenced by such factors as the level of controversy, the number of acres involved, issues addressed, and other factors. The plan may be combined with a general management planning process.

Cost Estimate – \$200,000–\$500,000

Time Frame – To be provided

Example – Cape Hattaras National Seashore Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan/EIS and Rulemaking – PEPC #10641

Potential Funding Sources – Park Planning and Special Studies Division – Unit Management Plan fund source

Key Contacts – To be provided



Operations and Investments Financial Sustainability Plan

Objective

This strategic plan ensures that future financial plans align with a park's existing and planned resource priorities and current NPS policy and guidance. The plan will be suitable for a park pursuing or experiencing fundamental changes, such as in the situations below:

- implementation of major planned investment
- significant operational changes (i.e., budget, staffing)
- expected concessions modifications or commercial services plan implementation
- unexpected external financial constraints
- added mandates
- park boundary adjustments (lands and facilities)
- resource challenges
- natural disasters

Description of the Product or Service

The plan provides the park with a framework for effective operations within the current budgetary environment and for adapting operations as changes occur over time; a communication structure and tools to help park management make sound financial decisions; and quantifiable targets for judging success. The following elements are considered in the planning process:

- evaluation and strategy for funding operations
- mapping existing and planned investments
- evaluation of existing concessions operations and potential future opportunities
- existing information from the park foundation, capital investment strategy, business management plan, state of the park, resource strategy, etc.
- opportunities for revenue enhancement (fee structure scenarios, marketing needs, partnership opportunities)
- opportunities for cost reduction (organization, programs)
- scenarios for increased flexibility in the use of park resources and available funding
- types and amounts of visitation and their effects on park revenues and expenses

(continued on next page)



Operations and Investments Financial Sustainability Plan (continued)



The plan fits within a broad concept of sustainability, which includes economic as well as environmental and social sustainability (e.g., staff well-being and external park relationships). The product is designed to complement the existing NPS Business Management Group mission and projects.

Cost Estimate – \$50,000–\$70,000

Time Frame – To be provided

Example(s) – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – To be provided

Key Contacts – Barbara Johnson, DSC Planning Division, Barbara_j_johnson@nps.gov

Park Asset Management Plan

Objective

To ensure that park assets are managed in a manner that best supports the park mission, a park asset management plan (PAMP) focuses operations and maintenance expenditures on high priority assets. The park asset management plan has a 10-year time horizon and assists in the development of annual work plans.

Description of the Product or Service

Executive Order 13327, "Federal Real Property Asset Management," requires all federal departments to create an asset management plan that includes life cycle costs, prioritized O&M costs, establishment of bureau performance measures related to asset management, and a single database for federal real property reporting. The park asset management plan represents the park-level implementation of this requirement. The PAMP process is normally completed by park and regional staff, with technical support from WASO. It includes the following:

- Review and correction of park asset and work order data stored in the Facility Management Software System (FMSS) database.
- Development of O&M requirements for park assets.
- Review of the park budget to estimate spending by asset type and work type, and to document historic project funding levels. This step will help to forecast the level of available funding for future O&M activities.
- Use of the O&M Optimizer tool to allocate O&M spending across the park asset inventory. If the required O&M need exceeds the available funding, as is frequently the case, this tool assists in the definition of asset priority bands, the systematic allocation of funds among the bands, and the selective assignment of assets to different bands based on operational needs.
- Bundling of park work orders into logical PMIS projects.
- Identification of assets for possible disposition through analysis of condition, priority, and other criteria.

Cost Estimate – Direct costs are not applicable unless outside consultants are involved.

Time Frame – To be provided

Example(s) – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – Park and program supported

Key Contacts – Regional Chiefs of Maintenance and Regional FMSS Coordinators



Park Partner Action Strategy

Objective

Partnerships are vital to effective stewardship of the national park system and require significant time and effort to implement and sustain. A park partner action strategy uses a facilitated process to improve the effectiveness of a partnership and results in prioritized actions to meet partnership goals over a specified period of time.

Partners may include any organization with a shared interest with a park such as friends groups, cooperating associations, community groups, museums, other government agencies, and others. The strategy is ideal for parks and partners that seek to

- establish a clear direction to help guide new relationships between organizations
- energize existing relationships between organizations
- formally define roles and responsibilities among partnership participants
- develop a plan for effective and collaborative partnership
- organize an upcoming event

Description of the Product or Service

A step-by-step process guides participants through the development of the action strategy, which includes pre-workshop preparation, a one- to two-day workshop, and completion of the strategy document. The entire process is designed to be efficient and cost effective, while producing a useful product that can be implemented immediately.

Cost Estimate – \$25,000–\$45,000

Time Frame – 1–6 months

Example – Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail Partner Workshop Report (2012)

Potential Funding Sources – Concessions Franchise Fee, Partner Organizations

Key Contacts – DSC Planning, Barbara Johnson, 303-969-2208,
Barbara_j_johnson@nps.gov



Park Planning and Resource Training

Objective

To provide trainees a common understanding and grasp of the major elements, principles, processes, concepts, and requirements for NPS program objectives. This training is intended for NPS (park, regional, Washington, and DSC) staff and other planning practitioners (within and outside the federal government) who are starting or will start in the near future to work on planning projects associated with NPS programs.

Description of the Product or Service

This is Web-based training. It consists of module(s) that may cover a variety of topics such as accessibility, visitor use management, visitor use capacity, preserving resources, planning for wild and scenic rivers, or preserving resources. The modules provide basic information for planning, serve as a continued resource reference, and potentially serve as a prerequisite for instructor-led training. The modules are intended to be accessible to a wide range of audiences; be self-paced; and have a familiar look, feel, and ease of navigation. Modules may be read consecutively or separately. Each module is divided into lessons and topics. At the end of each module there are several questions intended to determine if the trainee understands the key points of the module.

The modules are prepared in collaboration with USDI University and are posted on the USDI Learn website.

Cost Estimate – \$200,000

Time Frame – To be determined, based on the scope of the requested training

Example – Park Planning Training, USDI Learn

Potential Funding Sources – Program funded

Key Contacts – DSC–Planning, Barbara_j_johnson@nps.gov



PEPC Comment Analysis

Objective

The objective is to organize and analyze public comments on plan documents to fulfill the public comment requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Description of the Product or Service

The NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) database is a comprehensive catalog of all NPS documents undergoing NEPA-based environmental compliance. The database includes a public-facing website that allows the public to comment on documents that are open for review. Comment analysis is useful in processing small and large numbers of public comments and producing comment summaries, responses to comments, and final comment analysis reports. Comment analysis typically takes place after public scoping and public review of a NEPA document.

Cost Estimate – \$15,000–\$50,000

Time Frame – To be provided

Example – <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>

Potential Funding Sources – Comment analysis is usually included in the cost of a NEPA planning effort funded under the Park Planning and Special Studies or Environmental Quality divisions.

Key Contacts – Susan McPartland, DSC Planning Division,
susan_mcpartland@nps.gov



Public Comment Web Mapping for NEPA Analysis/Planning

Objective

The objective is to provide a tool used in evaluating and analyzing public involvement strategies through a graphic display of comment sites of origin, for projects conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Description of the Product or Service

The NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) database is a comprehensive catalog of all NPS documents undergoing NEPA-based environmental compliance. The database includes a public-facing website that allows the public to comment on documents that are open for review. Commenters are required to enter a ZIP code into the database for every comment they make. The ZIP code makes it possible to plot the location of each comment across the United States and Canada on a map using geographic information system technology. This product displays the sites of origin of public comments. Visualizing the comment locations and comment coding allows planners to identify where their outreach activities are being effective in proximity to the park or project and identify the type of comments being made by geographic location. Serving this data on a Web-based mapping site enables planners and managers to interactively view, explore, and analyze the mapped data without being a GIS expert.

The PEPC system has been recently updated to collect information on how the commenter heard about a specific planning document. The distribution of comments in relation to public involvement marketing strategies, including e-mail programs, social media, and websites, can now be investigated, and the correlation between these technologies and comment distribution tested.

A hard copy and electronic map showing the sites of origin of public comments is provided.

Cost Estimate – \$500–\$2000

Time Frame – 2–4 weeks

Example(s) – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – The product can be included in a NEPA planning effort funded under the Park Planning and Special Studies or Environmental Quality divisions' fund sources.

Key Contacts – Doug Wilder, GIS Program Lead, DSC Planning,
doug_wilder@nps.gov



Publications

Objective

DSC Publications provides the Denver Service Center, parks, and regions with professional in-house graphic design, original illustrations, visual treatment, accurate formatting, and professional editing of information and documents for superior reproduction for multiple publications for paper-based printing and Web-based access.

Description of the Product or Service

Publication products include park planning information enriched with eye-catching visuals, which are communicated to the public by hard copy documents; newsletters; posters; Web-compatible image files; portable electronic files for e-mail, tablets, and other online access; and compressed video formats for Web and personal device viewing. DSC Publications partners with planning specialists and project managers. Publication services establish a work relationship and a commitment to a shared goal. DSC Publications editors review, edit (with limited rewrite), and format a variety of materials to comply with industry standard editorial guidelines and DSC in-house style guide to meet NPS standards of excellence.

Publication services begin with a formal request for services, which is documented and amended as needed for tracking purposes. A consultation follows to confirm production instructions, including project manager, project name, project alpha and account number, graphics and editing requirements, task hours, level of complexity and design, materials to be provided, and publication milestones, i.e., hard deadlines, printing dates, and review dates. Publication services closely follow the milestones established by the project manager to ensure objectives are met.

Cost Estimate – For preparation of a document for internal, park, region, and WASO review processes: 25% of labor costs occur before the first draft review and 75% occur after changes/edits have been requested by the client. Projects with materials, text, and images that are near completion or have been finalized usually have fewer changes/edits and therefore labor costs are lower.

Time Frame – Variable

Example(s) – <http://www.nps.gov/dsc/docs/DSC-PlanningInfoSheets2012.pdf>
V:\DSC Planning Library\Graphics-Editing Samples

Potential Funding Sources – Publication services are often a component of a planning project and included in the total project cost.

Key Contacts – Jim Corbett, Branch Chief, DSC Publication Services,
jim_corbett@nps.gov



Regional Land Use Plan

Objective

The goal of the regional land use plan is to position the park and surrounding community in a direction that is unified and mutually supportive, while considering influences from outside the park boundaries.

Description of the Product or Service

This type of planning examines a variety of scales including the park and surrounding areas (e.g., gateway communities, urban cities, agencies, networks, resources) and focuses expansion and movement around compact, efficient, environmentally sensitive development that supports visitor use. A regional land use plan could evaluate resource management programs (natural or cultural), recreational uses and facilities, trail systems, and interpretive programs. In an urban context, this type of planning effort could connect various national park units to each other, as well as city parks, waterfronts, and urban cores (e.g., Gateway National Park to Ellis Island and New York City Parks, etc.). This approach could also help link surrounding communities to a park unit that is more remote by analyzing

- multiple and varied views to and from the park unit
- pedestrian access
- visitor use outside and in the park unit
- natural resource restoration in and outside the park unit
- cultural resource protection
- improvements in connections to the surrounding community

Cost Estimate – \$75,000–\$250,000

Time Frame – 9–18 months

Example(s) – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – To be provided

Key Contacts – DSC Planning, Barbara_j_johnson@nps.gov



Resource Stewardship Strategy

Objective

This strategic document develops strategies that will help park staff achieve the desired natural and cultural resource conditions for the park.

Description of the Product or Service

A resource stewardship strategy serves as a bridge between the qualitative statements of desired conditions established in the park's general management plan and the measurable goals and implementation actions determined through park strategic planning. The resource stewardship strategy is an analytical document focused on identifying and tracking indicators of desired conditions, recommending comprehensive strategies to achieve and maintain desired conditions over time, and assessing and updating these strategies periodically based on new information and the results of completed activities. This provides the park with a strategy for investing both human and fiscal resources in the stewardship of cultural and natural resources. It also reports on accountability toward progress in attaining and maintaining desired resource conditions at the park.

The format for the resource stewardship strategy is being reevaluated in the context of the revised NPS park planning framework, and new guidance will be developed.

Cost Estimate – \$50,000 to \$100,000

Time Frame – To be provided

Example(s) – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – There is no dedicated funding source for this product. On an interim basis, funding for pilot projects is provided through the Park Planning and Special Studies Division – Unit Management Plan fund source.

Key Contacts – Patrick Gregerson, Chief, WASO Park Planning and Special Studies, Patrick_Gregerson@nps.gov



Site Plan

Objective

The purpose is to address issues such as access and transportation, facilities and siting, programmatic requirements, and community interactions. Although each project is unique, typically the primary objectives would include:

- Define appropriate uses and functions for a site and to coordinate the interrelationships among these uses, site resources, and facilities.
- Establish a consistent, unified character for development that adheres to a common vision and will inform subsequent stages of design.
- Sustain resources while promoting and rewarding appropriate visitor experiences.
- Establish a road map that decision makers may use for guidance on capital improvements, preservation, and development.

Description of the Product or Service

Site management plans have been developed on their own as individual projects or incorporated into general management plans. Oftentimes, these projects follow a two-phase process. In some cases, both may be accomplished as distinct phases of the same project, while in other cases they are conducted as separate but related projects.

Phase I includes the development and analysis of alternatives, including NEPA compliance. The identification of the preferred alternative in phase I establishes the overall direction for site planning. Products of phase I may include: site selection and site analysis products, general program description, conceptual site plans (often in the form of functional relationship [bubble] diagrams), and general cost estimates. These products may be wrapped into one comprehensive environmental assessment.



Site Plan (continued)



Phase 2 is sometimes known as the master plan phase, and it occurs *after* the preferred site planning direction has been determined and approved. Phase II articulates the vision for the site in greater detail than phase I and typically establishes the preferred development character. Products of phase II may include a detailed design program, illustrative master plan (plan view), circulation plan, design guidelines, character sketches, phasing, and more detailed cost estimates. Due to the time and cost involved, it does not make sense to perform this level of planning for all alternatives. Therefore, usually the master plan is developed only for the *selected and approved* alternative.

The design products described earlier in the catalog reflect site planning elements that are often incorporated in a site planning project.

Cost Estimate – \$25,000–\$325,000

Time Frame – 6–24 months

Example – East and South Vancouver Barracks Master Plan, Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

Potential Funding Sources – Construction program fund source; Recreational fees; Park Planning and Special Studies Division – Unit Management Plan fund source

Key Contacts – Barbara J. Johnson: Barbara_J_Johnson@nps.gov

Kerri Cahill: Kerri_Cahill@nps.gov

Cynthia Nelson: Cynthia_Nelson@nps.gov

Note: This is also called a site management plan, development concept plan, or master plan.

Special Resource Study

Objective

Before a new national park unit is established, Congress requires reliable information about the quality of resources in the area under consideration and the potential for visitor enjoyment and efficient management. The NPS assembles and evaluates this information and reports its findings to Congress through special resource studies.

Description of the Product or Service

A special resource study describes the resources in a study area and analyzes a proposed area's national significance, suitability for inclusion in the national park system, the feasibility for inclusion of the area in the system, and whether direct NPS management of the area would be clearly superior to other management options, and the identification of the most effective and efficient alternative for the area. The study presents a summary finding on whether the proposed area meets the criteria for inclusion as a unit in the national park system. The appropriate level of environmental analysis is included in the process and product.

Study teams will be taking on the analysis of the life-cycle cost associated with the possible acquisition of any structures, applying the Total Cost of Facility Ownership calculator for acquired or adaptively reused structures.

Other special study products, which analyze similar criteria to determine eligibility for designation, are the national heritage area feasibility study (included in the catalog), the wild and scenic river study, and the national trail feasibility study.

Cost Estimate – \$250,000 – \$850,000.

Time Frame – 3–6 years

Examples – Alexander Hamilton: Estate Grange and Other Sites Special Resource Study; Waco Mammoth Site Special Resource Study/Environmental Assessment

Potential Funding Sources – WASO Park Planning and Special Studies Division - Special Study Fund Source

Key Contacts – Patrick Gregerson, Chief, WASO Park Planning and Special Studies, patrick.gregerson@nps.gov



Strategic Plan

Objective

Strategic planning is designed to help a park or program answer three questions: where are we now, where do we want to be in the near future (typically three to five years), and what are the most important things we need to accomplish to get there? The overall intent of strategic planning is to focus employee attention and energy on effectively addressing major operational, organizational, administrative, and resource issues in a timely manner.

Description of the Service

The strategic planning process is designed to help NPS managers establish a clear direction for their park or program, and then set goals and priorities accordingly. Preliminary information about the park or program's key issues is gathered through a survey of staff and managers. This is followed by a short workshop, where representatives from all the management divisions work collectively to create various components of the plan. The workshop results are compiled into a draft plan and then refined in review by workshop participants. By the end of the process, the park or program will have accomplished an initial major step toward an ideal future and will have clearly written plan to implement. Parks may choose to update their strategic plan regularly as they adapt to evolving conditions and their needs and priorities change.

The strategic planning process is flexible and adapted to meet the needs of each individual park or program. Managers work with planning staff to select strategic plan components appropriate for their unique situation—commonly selected components of a strategic plan are key issues and opportunities for the park, a mission statement, a vision statement, goals, priorities, actions, and a frame work for reviewing progress.

Cost Estimate – While costs can vary from \$10,000 to \$100,000, the current average is \$30,000

Time Frame – 3–6 months

Example(s) – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – Park-funded

Key Contact – Regional Planning Chiefs, DSC-Planning, keri_cahill@nps.gov



Trail Management Plan

Objective

A trail management plan is a strategic tool to guide the future course of trail management and development. The broad purpose of the plan is to identify management objectives and strategies to guide the development, protection, management, maintenance, and use of the trail system within the park over a 15-year period, to meet new challenges and opportunities.

Description of the Product or Service

The trail management plan documents identify issues, assess the existing trail system, establish objectives, engage with the public, develop alternatives for the park's current and future trail network(s), and conduct environmental impact analysis. The plan will discuss proposed locations for trails and trailheads; trail construction, management, and operation guidelines; and allowable uses. The plan also prescribes policies to streamline interagency management, where applicable. Factors that influence the scope of the plan, its cost, and the project's time frame, include data needs; size of the trail system; the extent of public involvement activities; and the level of public input, among others.

Cost Estimate – \$150,000–\$300,000

Time Frame – 2–3 years

Example – *Yosemite National Park Half Dome Trail Stewardship Plan*—<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/documentsList.cfm?parkID=347&projectID=29443>

Potential Funding Sources – To be provided

Key Contacts – To be provided

Note: This product is also called a trail stewardship plan.



Ungulate Management Plan

Objective

The objective is to develop an integrated plan and NEPA document, whether an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement, for managing deer, elk, or other ungulate species to address present or future issues associated with overpopulation.

Description of the Product or Service

The planning effort involves work with NPS units, regions, the WASO Biological Resources Management Division, state wildlife management agencies, other cooperating agencies or organizations, and the public in the development of a collaborative and science-based plan.

The plan document is tailored to address the specific issues associated with the park, including habitat degradation, changes in vegetation or wildlife communities, or adverse impacts on crops or property. When appropriate, a science team composed of individuals from the WASO Biological Resources Management Division, region, park, other federal or state agencies, and academia would be assembled early in the process to participate in the project. The experience and processes developed by the Environmental Quality Division for other ungulate management plans (i.e., ungulate plans for Valley Forge, Theodore Roosevelt, or others) would be used as a model in conducting the project.

Individual project schedules will vary depending on whether the project is conducted in-house or through a contractor; whether an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement is being prepared; the number and nature of issues to be addressed; the number and participation level of cooperating agencies; the level of public interest and controversy; and the quantity and nature of public comment received during scoping and the document review period.

Cost Estimate – Cost varies depending on the complexity of the site and project.

Time Frame – 3–4 years (if the NEPA document is an environmental impact statement); 2–3 years (if the NEPA document is an environmental assessment)

Example – White-tailed Deer Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Valley Forge National Historical Park, 2009; Theodore Roosevelt National Park Elk Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, 2010

Potential Funding Sources – Environmental Quality Division fund source

Key Contacts – Biological Resources Management Division, DSC Planning



Viewshed Management Plan

Objective

The objective is to identify critical views within and beyond park boundaries and recommend steps to preserve them for scenic and as relevant, historic values.

Description of THE Product or Service

With ever-expanding residential and commercial uses, traditional power lines, and renewable energy structures, viewsheds from within a park looking beyond can be under threat of encroachment. In developing this plan, key critical viewshed points within the park are identified, and spatial mapping is used to identify the corridors visible from each viewpoint. Strategies and recommendations for preserving the critical viewsheds are identified and presented in the plan. Although most parks deal with viewshed management only when mitigating a proposed project, many parks can benefit from having a comprehensive viewshed management plan. A strategic approach to managing viewsheds will enable a park to evaluate specific proposals that may impact viewsheds more effectively.

A viewshed management plan may be undertaken as a component of a general management plan, strategic plan, or other plans for resource management and visitor use.

Cost estimate – Variable

Time Frame – Variable

Example – Manassas National Battlefield Park – Manassas Viewshed Plan

Potential Funding Sources – Park Planning and Special Studies Division – Unit Management Plan fund source; GIS and other programs



Visitor Experience And Transportation Assessment



Objective

This assessment establishes a baseline for the quality of transportation-related visitor experience; identifies needs and strategies for improving visitor experience; and develops performance measures to determine the effectiveness of the strategies.

Description of the Product or Service

The product presents a comprehensive assessment of the quality of transportation-related visitor experience at the park unit or in a region. It contributes to the development of long-range transportation plans or other transportation projects. Profiles for different user types are developed and used to assess how well the existing transportation system(s) is/are fulfilling user needs and expectations. Strategies to address needs are recommended, and performance measures are developed to track how well the strategies work. A site visit would likely be involved to supplement existing data and reports.

Cost Estimate – \$20,000–\$75,000

Time Frame – 6–12 months

Example – *Visitor Experience Technical Report for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Muir Woods National Monument, and Fort Point National Historic Site Long-Range Transportation Plan, 2013.*

Potential Funding Sources – To be provided

Key Contacts – DSC Planning, kerri_cahill@nps.gov

Visitor Use Management Plan

Objective

A visitor use management plan (VUM) develops a collaborative vision for providing and managing visitor use. Proactively planning for visitor use supports responsive management that increases the ability of the National Park Service to protect resources while maximizing visitor opportunities. This type of plan could be considered when the need is to

- expand visitor opportunities for recreation and enjoyment
- assess the appropriateness of new visitor activities
- enhance opportunities for the park's key visitor experiences
- align public expectations with visitor opportunities
- analyze existing visitor use characteristics and patterns
- reduce conflicts between different user groups or between visitors and wildlife
- minimize impacts to resources and visitor experiences caused by visitor use
- manage visitor demand at popular destinations
- balance tradeoffs between different visitor use management strategies

Description of the Product or Service

The VUM planning process examines current and potential visitor opportunities and develops long-term strategies for protecting resources while providing access, connecting visitors to key visitor experiences, and managing use. The plan incorporates best practices for managing visitor use to achieve and maintain desired conditions, while meeting legal requirements. The plan may include the following elements:

- An analysis on the feasibility and appropriateness of providing new or expanded recreation opportunities (e.g., more direct access to key visitor experiences, introducing new recreation activities in an area)
- Detailed guidance on providing for and managing particular visitor activities (e.g., climbing, overnight use, motorized use)
- An assessment of the need for new visitor use facilities or changes to existing facilities (e.g., campsites, trails, day use areas)
- Identification of strategies for addressing various visitor use issues (e.g., crowding, visitor conflicts, resource impacts)

(continued on next page)



Visitor Use Management Plan (continued)



The VUM planning process brings in the opportunity for collaboration with other NPS programs. Further, elements of the planning process can be integrated into other types of plans such as for commercial services, wilderness and transportation. Several of the examples below illustrate the opportunity for integration; while not titled a VUM plan, they have incorporated substantive elements of the visitor use management planning process.

Cost Estimate – \$225,000–\$350,000

Time Frame – 2–3 years (assumes an environmental assessment)

Examples – Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Visitor Use Management Plan (in progress); Moose-Wilson Corridor Comprehensive Management Plan (in progress) – PEPC #48252; Snake River Headwaters Comprehensive River Management Plan / EA 2013 – PEPC #31397; Virgin Wild and Scenic River Comprehensive Management Plan / EA 2013 – PEPC #32068; Chaco Culture National Historical Park GMP/EA 2012 – PEPC #21575

Potential Funding Sources – Park Planning and Special Studies Division – Unit Management Plan fund source, Environmental Quality Division fund source; other programs; Recreational fee fund sources

Key Contacts – Kerri Cahill, Branch Chief and Visitor Use Management Team Lead, Denver Service Center, kerri_cahill@nps.gov

Visitor Use Monitoring Protocol

Objective

The purpose of this effort is to develop a visitor use and impact monitoring program, an important component of successful visitor use management efforts in a park. The protocol helps inform, and provide a defensible basis for, long-term management efforts.

Description of the Product or Service

The project includes conducting background research, a facilitated workshop, and developing phase I and phase II monitoring protocols. The project elements

- provide lessons learned and reference materials from other park implementation programs to use in refinement of a park's use and impact-related indicators, standards, and management strategies
- facilitate discussions and provide technical expertise to develop a phased approach for implementing a visitor use and impact monitoring program that can continue to progress at various levels of funding and staff expertise
- generate a feasible subset of indicators that would serve as the basic foundation of phases I and II in the park's visitor use and impact monitoring program
- assist the park, through a facilitated workshop and other discussions in identifying resources/methods available and an appropriate level of commitment for NPS staff
- facilitate dialogue on how monitoring results will feed into the process for informing adaptive management actions as identified in various park plans

While there are similarities with the visitor use management plan, the process and outcomes of a monitoring protocol are different and it is considered a separate product.

Cost Estimate – \$30,000–\$100,000

Time Frame – 6–12 months

Example(s) – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – To be provided

Key Contacts – Kerri Cahill, Branch Chief and Visitor Use Management Team Lead, Denver Service Center, kerri_cahill@nps.gov



Visitor Use Studies And Surveys

Objective

The objective is to gather and evaluate data on visitor characteristics and baseline conditions related to visitor use levels and patterns, in order to inform ongoing park management and future decision making. A park may need this information to address questions such as the following:

- Who are our visitors and what are they doing during their visit?
- What motivates visitors to visit the park or participate in specific activities?
- What are fundamental characteristics of visitor experiences and opportunities?
- What do visitors think about specific management issues and potential strategies?
- How are current visitor use patterns affecting resources and visitor experiences?

Description of the Product or Service

Studies and surveys provide assessments of visitor characteristics, visitor preferences and motivations, and baseline conditions relating to use levels and patterns. They can also be used to gather and evaluate visitor input on management issues and associated strategies. The products may include the modeling of visitor use patterns and spatial analysis of visitor use issues. Findings and recommendations help guide the park in determining the best path for addressing visitor use issues, including assessing visitor capacity, or undertaking a subsequent planning effort. A visitor study or survey could be a component of a unit management planning project.

Cost Estimate – \$45,000–\$175,000

Time Frame – 1–2 years

Example(s) – Park, Logan. 2011. Assessment of Visitor Related Impacts and Potential Management Strategies at Ozark National Scenic Riverways. Denver, CO: Report prepared for the National park Service. On file at Denver Service Center.; Pettebone, D., P. Newman, and S. Lawson. 2010. [Estimating Visitor Use and Attraction Sites and Trailheads in Yosemite National Park Using Automate Visitor Counters.](#); Whittaker, D. and B. Shelby. 2012. [Boats, Beaches, and River Banks: Visitor Evaluations of Recreation on the Merced River in Yosemite Valley: Final Study Report.](#) Confluence Research Consulting. July 2012.

Potential Funding Sources – WASO Park Planning and Special Studies Division – Unit Management Plan fund source (as a component of a unit management plan project)

Key Contacts – Branch Chief and Visitor Use Management Team Lead, Denver Service Center - Kerri Cahill, kerri_chaill@nps.gov



Wetland Impact Analysis and DO 77-1: Wetland Protection Compliance Assistance Service

Objective

The objective is to help park natural resources staff meet project-specific wetland compliance requirements for construction or other activities that would have adverse impacts on wetlands. The objective also includes assistance with wetland impact mitigation strategies.

Description of the Product or Service

Wetland Impact Analysis and DO 77-1: Wetland Protection Compliance Assistance Service provides

- evaluations of physical and biological conditions and functional values of specific wetland areas that could be impacted by construction or other activities
- interpretation of the extent and magnitude of impacts to the physical and biological conditions of the wetlands from proposed construction or other activities
- identification of opportunities to avoid, minimize, and compensate for wetland impacts
- review and evaluation services to guide successful completion of wetland statements of findings and their incorporation into NEPA documents as required by DO 77-1

Cost Estimate – Costs are mainly in the form of staff time, as described under potential funding sources.

Time Frame – To be provided

Example(s) – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – The Wetland Impact Analysis and DO 77-1: Wetland Protection Compliance Assistance Service requires Water Resources Division and park staff time to identify wetland areas that will be impacted by construction or other activities on NPS lands. The Water Resources Division's Wetlands Program can provide staff to complete the on-site evaluations and produce the products.

Key Contacts – Kevin Noon and Joel Wagner, Wetlands Program, Water Resources Division, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, kevin_noon@nps.gov; joel_wagner@nps.gov



Wetland Management Strategy Report

Objective

The objective is to provide park natural resource staff with site-specific wetland management actions that can be implemented immediately and/or over the longer term.

Description of the Product or Service

The wetland management strategies report requires an assessment of the physical and biological conditions and functional values of specific wetland areas within the park, the magnitude of degradation, and the likely conditions that will evolve as a result of adverse impacts from climate change. In order to complete the overall description of the wetland resources, park staff are asked to contribute an understanding of their land-use management requirements that impact the wetlands. Management strategies are then defined to compliment park staff's land-use management requirements while incorporating opportunities to enhance or restore wetland functional values and natural conditions. Typical wetland management strategies include

- steps to enhance physical and biological conditions of the wetlands or streams
- construction steps necessary to complete the restoration of specific wetland, dam removal, or stream restoration projects
- identification of studies and field data collection necessary to complete the projects
- identification of nonnative species removal needs
- recommendations to modify surface or groundwater hydrology, monitoring protocols, and sampling and/ or survey work are recommended, if necessary

Cost Estimate – Costs are mainly in the form of staff time, as described under potential funding sources.

Time Frame – To be provided

Example(s) – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – Development of a wetland management strategies report requires staff time from park natural resource staff to identify wetlands that are stressed, those that require active management, and those that may need substantial restoration. The Water Resources Division's Wetlands Program can provide staff to complete the on-site evaluations and produce wetland management strategy reports.

Key Contacts – Kevin Noon and Joel Wagner, Wetlands Program, Water Resources Division



Wetland Restoration Services

Objective

The objectives are to help park natural resource staff identify wetland sites in need of restoration and provide staff with guidance, products, and services needed to complete wetland restoration projects.

Description of the Product or Service

Restoration services provide

- on-site identification of degraded wetlands, evaluation of physical and biological conditions of degraded wetlands, restoration potential of each site, and prioritization of potential restoration projects according to cost and physical and biological benefits
- guidance and assistance in collecting restoration design data including wetland delineations, topographic surveying, and surface and groundwater monitoring
- wetland restoration design plans and specifications, including grading plans, planting plans, construction sequencing and cost estimation
- technical advice and oversight during the design and construction process, including serving as on-site construction monitors

Products include

- hydrologic data analyses and ground water contour maps
- wetland design plans and specifications (e.g., grading plans, planting plans)
- post construction monitoring plans

Cost Estimate – Costs are mainly in the form of staff time, as described under potential funding sources.

Time Frame – Variable

Example(s) – To be provided

Potential Funding Sources – Wetland Restoration Services require Water Resources Division and park staff time to coordinate and complete these and other tasks required to complete a restoration project, including funding acquisition for construction and other implementation steps, assistance with wetland compliance, and COR services. The Water Resources Division's Aquatic Systems Branch can provide staff time to complete the on-site services and produce the products.

Key Contacts – Kevin Noon and Joel Wagner, Wetlands Program, Water Resources Division, Natural Resource Stewardship and Science, kevin_noon@nps.gov, joel_wagner@nps.gov



Wild and Scenic Rivers Comprehensive River Management Plan



Objective

For a river designated under the wild and scenic river system, the objective is set long-term goals and implementation strategies to protect and enhance the river's values, and to address development of lands and facilities, user capacities, and other management practices that are necessary or desirable, to achieve the purposes of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The ultimate benefit of this planning effort is the long-term protection and enhancement of a designated wild and scenic river—attained through more focused resource and visitor use management and better articulation of the river's national significance and importance to the public.

Description of the Product or Service

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires comprehensive planning for designated rivers to protect and enhance their free-flowing condition, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values (i.e., river-related or river-dependent resources that are unique, rare, or exemplary), collectively known as the values which made the river worthy of designation. The first step is to identify these values in a Wild and Scenic River (WSR) Values statement, described as a separate product on the next page. The plan establishes a river corridor management program to protect and enhance its WSR values and determines the appropriate types and levels of development within the corridor. It addresses user capacity, establishing the kinds and amount of visitor use on the river and its shorelands that are consistent with protecting and enhancing its WSR values, including recreation if that has been identified as an outstandingly remarkable value. The plan provides a framework for monitoring and decision-making, and may include implementation elements if visitor capacities are, or are close to, being exceeded.

Cost Estimate – \$400,000 average cost

Time Frame – 3 years

Example(s) – Virgin River CRMP - PEPC #32068 (prepared jointly with BLM)
Snake River Headwaters CRMP - PEPC #31397 (encompassing designated river segments in three park units—YELL, JODR, and GRTE—and a FWS refuge)

Potential Funding Sources – WASO Park Planning and Special Studies Division – Unit Management Plan fund source

Key Contacts – NPS Servicewide WSR Program, co-coordinators and regional representatives; Cassie Thomas, WSR Specialist, WASO Park Planning and Special Studies, cassie_thomas@nps.gov; DSC Planning, Barbara_j_johnson@nps.gov

Wild and Scenic River Values Statement

Objective

The purpose of wild and scenic river designation is to protect the river's free-flowing condition, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values, collectively known as the values which made the river worthy of designation. The values statement describes these fundamental characteristics to support future planning and management.

Description of the Product or Service

This product is based on a workshop approach that brings subject matter experts, park managers, and wild and scenic river program leaders together to define and evaluate outstandingly remarkable values, free-flowing condition, and water quality for designated wild and scenic rivers. Outstandingly remarkable values, i.e., river-related or river-dependent resources that are unique, rare, or exemplary, are defined by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as the characteristics that make a river worthy of special protection. Free-flowing condition and water quality support the integrity of outstandingly remarkable values and are key components of future planning and management. The statement results in a better understanding of these resource values, including baseline and current conditions, trends, and threats; issues and opportunities; and stakeholder interests.

The values statement is the first step in the development of a comprehensive river management plan. It can also be done independently of the larger effort to provide foundational elements for the wild and scenic river unit.

Cost Estimate – \$30,000

Time Frame – 3 years

Examples – Virgin River CRMP - PEPC #32068 (prepared jointly with BLM); Snake River Headwaters CRMP - PEPC #31397 (encompassing designated river segments in three park units—YELL, JODR, and GRTE—and a FWS refuge)

Potential Funding Sources – WASO Park Planning and Special Studies Division – Unit Management Plan fund source

Key Contacts – Cassie Thomas, WSR Specialist, WASO Park Planning and Special Studies, cassie_thomas@nps.gov; DSC Planning, Barbara_j_johnson@nps.gov



Wilderness Eligibility Assessment

Objective

According to NPS *Management Policies 2006* (6.2.1), all lands and waters administered by the National Park Service, including new units or additions to existing units since 1964, are to be evaluated for their eligibility for inclusion in the national wilderness preservation system. The objective of an eligibility assessment is to identify lands and waters that possess the characteristics and values of wilderness as defined in the 1964 Wilderness Act. Lands and water found eligible for wilderness can then be formally studied to determine if they should be proposed to Congress for wilderness designation.

Description of the Product or Service

The eligibility assessment is a general evaluation of park lands and waters that is preliminary to a wilderness study. This is an internal assessment, not subject to NEPA compliance. It typically consists of a brief memorandum from the regional director to the NPS director that conveys the managerial determination regarding whether park lands and waters meet eligibility criteria for wilderness designation. The memorandum includes a brief description of the study area(s) within the park unit, and the analysis and findings for each area determined to be eligible or determined not to be eligible. The assessment may be combined with a wilderness study or other planning products as appropriate. Notifications to the public of the wilderness eligibility assessment process and of the publication of a final eligibility determination in the *Federal Register* are required.

Factors such as size of the area, availability of baseline data, availability of information, and need for ground-truthing influence the scope of the analysis and therefore cost and time frame.



Wilderness Eligibility Assessment (continued)

Cost Estimate – \$30,000

Time Frame – 2 months–1 year

Examples – “Wilderness Eligibility Assessment for Kahuku Unit of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.” (2012)

http://www.nps.gov/policy/Reference%20Manual%2041_rev.htm

“City of Rocks National Reserve Wilderness Eligibility Assessment.” (2012)

http://www.nps.gov/policy/Reference%20Manual%2041_rev.htm

“Wilderness Eligibility Assessment for Channel Islands National Park” (2013) (see chapter 2 of the Channel Islands National Park General Management Plan / Wilderness Study / Environmental Impact Statement, *PEPC #11063*)

Potential Funding Sources – Wilderness Stewardship Program; Park Planning and Special Studies Division – Unit Management Plan fund source – (if included in a larger planning effort); Park and regional sources

Key Contacts – Tim Devine, Acting Chief, Wilderness Stewardship Division and Wilderness Training Specialist, tim_devine@nps.gov – Erin Drake, Wilderness Communications and Outreach Specialist, erin_drake@nps.gov; Sandee Dingman, Natural Resource Specialist, Denver Service Center Planning Division, sandee_dingman@nps.gov

Other Name for this Product: Wilderness suitability assessment
(see note on p.78 of NPS *Management Policies 2006*)



Wilderness Stewardship Plan

Objective

According to NPS *Management Policies 2006* (6.3.4.2), the superintendent of each park containing wilderness resources is to develop and maintain a wilderness stewardship plan or equivalent planning document to guide the preservation, management, and use of these resources. Wilderness stewardship planning is focused on the preservation of wilderness character, the primary affirmative mandate of the 1964 Wilderness Act. The overarching goal of a wilderness stewardship plan is to restore, protect, and enhance the area's wilderness character.

Description of the Product or Service

The wilderness stewardship plan sets long-term goals and objectives, identifies issues and opportunities, and provides a decision-making framework and appropriate actions to preserve and, if necessary, improve wilderness character now and into the future. The plan identifies desired future conditions and establishes indicators, measures, and standards beyond which management actions would be taken to maintain or restore desired conditions for wilderness character. The plan is typically integrated with an environmental assessment.

A park wilderness stewardship plan may be developed as a separate document or as an action component of a general management plan.

Cost Estimate – \$200,000–\$300,000, if an environmental assessment is prepared
\$300,000–\$500,000, if an environmental impact statement is prepared

Time Frame – 1–3 years

Examples – Petrified Forest National Park Wilderness Stewardship Plan (2013) — PEPC #33669; Apostle Islands National Lakeshore General Management Plan / Wilderness Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (2011) — PEPC #10903

Lake Mead–Jimilnan, Pinto Valley, Black Canyon, Eldorado, Ireteba Peaks, Nellis Wash, Spirit Mountain, and Bridge Canyon Wilderness Areas Draft Wilderness Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (2014) – PEPC #16820

Potential Funding Sources

Wilderness Stewardship Program; WASO Park Planning and Special Studies Division – Unit Management Plan fund source; Park and regional sources

Key Contacts

Tim Devine, Acting Chief, Wilderness Stewardship Division and Wilderness Training Specialist, tim_devine@nps.gov; Erin Drake, Wilderness Communications and Outreach Specialist, erin_drake@nps.gov; Sandee Dingman, Natural Resource Specialist, Denver Service Center Planning Division, sandee_dingman@nps.gov

Other Name for this Product: Wilderness management plan



Wilderness Study

Objective

Section 6.2.2 of NPS *Management Policies 2006* requires that all lands and waters determined eligible for wilderness designation be formally studied to develop a recommendation to Congress for wilderness designation. The objective of a wilderness study is to determine if and where eligible lands and waters within a national park unit should be proposed for wilderness designation. Wilderness studies serve as the basis for the director to propose wilderness designation to the secretary of the interior. The ultimate result of the study may be a recommendation to Congress for wilderness designation.

Description of the Product or Service

Wilderness studies involve a much more intensive review of wilderness resources than wilderness eligibility assessments, which are a precursor to a wilderness study. They identify a range of possible wilderness configurations within a park unit and evaluate their effects on the human environment. A wilderness study includes a range of alternatives, with different configurations of proposed wilderness, as well as a “no action” alternative. An environmental impact statement is required to accompany all wilderness studies that propose legislation to designate a wilderness, and a public hearing(s) must be held as part of the process. The complexity of a park’s wilderness, availability of information, the presence of controversy, extent of public comment, and the level of involvement by park and regional staff all affect the cost and time frame for the study.

Cost Estimate – \$300,000–\$500,000

Time Frame – 2–3 years

Examples – *Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. Final Wilderness Study / Environmental Impact Statement. 2004.* (<http://www.nps.gov/apis/parkmgmt/wild-study.htm>); *Everglades National Park. Draft General Management Plan / East Everglades Wilderness Study / Environmental Impact Statement. 2013—* PEPC #11170; *Channel Islands National Park. Draft General Management Plan / Wilderness Study / Environmental Impact Statement. 2013—* PEPC #10903)

Potential Funding Sources – Wilderness Stewardship Program; WASO Park Planning and Special Studies Division – Unit Management Plan fund source – (if included in a larger planning effort); Park and regional sources

Key Contacts

Tim Devine, Acting Chief, Wilderness Stewardship Division and Wilderness Training Specialist, tim_devine@nps.gov; Erin Drake, Wilderness Communications and Outreach Specialist, erin_drake@nps.gov; Sandee Dingman, Natural Resource Specialist, Denver Service Center Planning Division, sandee_dingman@nps.gov





Design Charrette
Cost Benefit Analysis Editing Services
Visitor Use Monitoring Protocol
Visitor Use Studies and Surveys
Park Partnership Strategic Planning
National Heritage Area Management Plans
Regional Communications Strategy Site Management Plans
Strategic Conservation Plan Camping Management Planning Site Plans
Logos Informational and Instructional Videos Portraits
Stakeholder Meetings Design Guidelines and Principles Accessibility Transition Plans
Viewshed Management Plan Design Concept Graphics and Illustrations
Wild and Scenic Rivers Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Facilitation Visitor Experience and Transportation Assessments
Web Mapping DCPs Museum Feasibility Report
Library Services Visual Resource Inventory and Management Plan
Master Plan Public Comment Web Mapping for NEPA Analysis/Planning
Wilderness Characteristics Interagency Partnership Visitor Services Plan
Seminar Production Integrated Park Improvements Boundary Adjustment Studies
Development Concept Plans Wilderness Eligibility Assessment PEPC Comment Analysis
GIS Park Atlas Trail Management/Stewardship Plan Park Partner Action Strategy
Hunting Management Plan Sustainability Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Public Meetings
Graphics Operations and Investments financial Sustainability Plans
Strategic Planning for Parks National Heritage Area feasibility Study Special Resource Study
Cultural Landscape Report Accessibility Conceptual Site Plans Integrated Design Facilitation
Visitor Use Contract Management for Surveys GIS Analysis
Regional Land Use Planning Park Planning and Resource Training Environmental Analysis
Ungulate Management Plan Long Term Transportation Plans Foundation Documents
Visitor Use Management Plan Wilderness Stewardship Plan
Fire Management Plan Resource Stewardship Strategy Commercial Services Plans
Public Hearings Strategic Planning for Programs Historic Structure Reuse Plan
Economic and Environmental Benefits Calculator Comment Analysis
Master Plans General Management Plan Amendments Unit Management Plan
Environmental Assessments Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan
Cultural Landscape Inventory Historic Structure Report
Environmental Impact Statements
Climate Change Scenario Planning
General Management Plans
Climbing Management Plan
Directorate-Level Briefings
Native American Consultation
Wild and Scenic Rivers Comprehensive Management Plan
Planning Division
Publications